



Special Report: Bayh's Senate Career

Caution delivers Bayh to the cusp



Decade in Senate brings few risks, but reputation as bipartisan centrist

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.** in Washington and **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis.

Vice presidential candidates and doctors share a common principle: First, do no harm. No one has exemplified that rule better than Evan Bayh in his first decade of service in the U.S. Senate. It is a body he entered in January 1999 facing his first votes on the impeachment of



President Bill Clinton.

It turns out that his prudence may have served him well by putting Bayh near the top of Sen. Barack Obama's list of potential running mates. If Obama is looking for someone who is smart, articulate, safe and a proven winner in a Republican-leaning state,

Indiana's junior senator is straight from central casting.

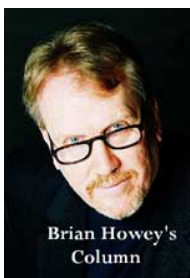
Bayh's defining characteristic during his Senate tenure has been caution. He rarely takes risky policy positions - and he rarely takes a political hit. In fact, in his most

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Jill's SEIU 'blank check'

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Jill Long Thompson's Democratic gubernatorial campaign is expected to find thrust this fall from the Service Employees International Union, which has donated \$900,000 to her campaign as of June 30 and may spend millions more on her behalf. In doing so, it is exposing fissures with the Hoosier labor alignment with the prize being the right to represent state employees if collective bargaining is reinstated.



Brian Howey's Column

SEIU's prolific involvement in the Thompson campaign may be coming at the expense of the UAW and AFSCME, which has battled for membership with the SEIU. At the Indiana Democratic



“Good thing Angelina Jolie gave birth earlier in the week or the summit wouldn't have made the press.”

- Purdue Prof. Eugene Spafford, on the Obama forum



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Convention, the UAW refused to endorse Thompson. The SEIU's financial involvement with Thompson also drew a sharp rebuke from the re-election campaign of Gov. Mitch Daniels, calling it a "corrupt bargain."

Jerry Morrison, executive director of the Illinois-Indiana Service Employees International Union, told HPI earlier this week that the \$900,000 is just the tip of the iceberg. SEIU will "do whatever it takes," he said, to get Thompson elected. "We intend to work very hard for Jill."

While the UAW and Thompson are at loggerheads over an endorsement over the extension of power to the locals, the SEIU was taking verbal swipes at the CAP Council. "We will have the best field operation in history," Morrison said. He was preparing to draw

on 165,000 members in Illinois, who, Morrison said, will soon be streaming across the Indiana state line manning phone banks, registering voters, and turning out the vote leading up to Election Day. When we mentioned that the UAW has maintained the Cadillac of phone banks and field ops, Morrison just laughed. SEIU would commit a 50-person full-time staff on behalf of Thompson. "We will run phone banks all over the state," he said. The staffing will "surge" to 700 to 800 people on the weekends. "There will be no shortage of resources," Morrison promised. He was offering a political Prius.

Will SEIU give Thompson another million? Two million? Three million? "Whatever it takes," Morrison said. In 2005, seven unions bolted

from the AFL-CIO, led by the SEIU, and formed the Change To Win (CTW) federation. In 2006, CTW gave \$7.7 million to 89 candidates running for governor or lieutenant governor, with \$7.5 million of that going to Democrats. In 2006, the re-election campaign of Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich received \$2.2 million. This year, SEIU ran a \$450,000 TV ad on behalf of Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon, who is seeking the governorship. According to a study by Linda Casey of the National Institute on Money in State Politics, SEIU has donated

\$23.25 million to state races in 2004 and \$22.76 million in 2006.

Told of the \$20 million campaign that Daniels has come to expect, Morrison said it doesn't matter. In fact, he said, TV doesn't matter. "Many don't get it, that broadcast TV won't matter. People weren't moved by broad-

cast TV last cycle. Obama didn't beat Hillary because of TV. It will be more pronounced this election cycle. McCain will spend as much as Obama on TV and it won't matter."

The new model was previewed in May, when Obama's campaign made five to six touches on targeted voters. It is, as former Fort Wayne mayor Graham Richard said during one of Obama's rallies, "ne-troots meeting grassroots." SEIU believes it can tap into the new way of campaigning via the web, e-mail, phone outreach, and neighborhood canvassing. "This will be a very difficult environment for incumbents," Morrison predicted. "All we have to do is make sure she can be competitive." If Daniels raises \$20 million, Morrison believes that Thompson can be com-



Jill Long Thompson at a winter press conference at the Statehouse. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



petitive in the \$10 million to \$12 million range.

Eric Holcomb, campaign manager for Daniels' re-election campaign, characterized it as a "corrupt bargain" with the SEIU intent on financing much of the campaign of Thompson. Holcomb told Howey Politics Indiana, which broke the story on Tuesday, "Indiana has never seen a corrupt bargain of this magnitude before. It is apparent Jill Long Thompson has just sold her campaign to the highest out-of-state bidder in return for millions of dollars of future public employee dues. This is an example of greed seeking to rule by the confiscation of part of one's paycheck."

Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker noted that the Republican Governor's Association just infused the Daniels campaign with \$750,000. He accused Holcomb of "throwing rocks at glass houses." The RGA spent \$2.2 million on Daniels behalf in 2004. Thompson campaign spokesman Jeff Harris accused the Daniels administration of privatizing state asset to benefit his campaign contributors.

Morrison invites the pundits to look at what SEIU did in 2007 during the Chicago City Council's aldermanic races. A Chicago Reader blog notes: Since local SEIU leaders began mobilizing in 2006 to elect a city council friendlier to working families, they've described their political work in Chicago as a potential model for labor across the country. And they came away from last year's elections with something to show for it: nine new aldermen, most elected with the help of volunteers and cash from the union. The union, though, is getting ready to take the Chicago strategy nationwide. After this fall's elections, members of Congress who fail to work for extended health care benefits and labor organizing rights may end up as targets of SEIU's 'Justice for All' accountability campaign, and the \$150 million union leaders are willing to spend on it.

Morrison's "whatever it takes" language has been heard before. The Beachwood Reporter, analyzing Toni Foulkes' 2007 win in Chicago's 15th Aldermanic Ward, was described like this: "We'll do everything we did before only more of all of it," said Morrison. "We will spend whatever it takes to elect Toni Foulkes to the Chicago City Council. I will not put a dollar figure on it but it will be substantially more than we spent on the first round and whatever it requires to get the job done." Foulkes won the primary with 34 percent of the vote against 11 opponents

- after spending \$225,000, about half put up by the Service Employees International Union. With 2,037 votes to her name, that's about \$110 a vote."

The Beachwood Reporter added that Morrison said most volunteers for union-backed candidates work for private companies. "It shows you the level of corruption that has existed in this city that people can't tell the difference between a campaign volunteer and a political worker," Morrison said. He added that the only things SEIU offered as inducement for campaign help were better government, a T-shirt and some pizza.

Morrison noted there are only three or four gubernatorial races that are competitive in 2008 - Indiana, North Carolina, Missouri and Washington - so the SEIU and the Democratic Governors Association will be targeting Daniels, who ended collective bargaining for state employees as one of his first acts in office.

SEIU President Tom Balanoff told the Reader, "We also here in Illinois are going to focus a lot on our neighboring states, Indiana especially. And we'll be in Missouri." And Balanoff added of his union's political activity in the face of Mayor Daley's Chicago machine, "What we demonstrated is that we can put our members in motion, we can get our members to contribute, and we can get them out there to work. We demonstrated we had money, people, and time, and that's pretty powerful." The

Chicago Tribune reported that "the most politically ambitious labor group, the SEIU, gave more than \$2.7 million in campaign cash and services to council candidates, records show."

Another example occurred last April and May in the primary. "SEIU members worked tirelessly on behalf of Senator Obama and that work translated into tremendous success," said SEIU Illinois Council Secretary-Treasurer Anna Burger. "We closed the gap with Sen. Clinton to just a few thousand votes in addition to pushing gubernatorial nominee Jill Long Thompson over the top in a tight election and putting Congressman André Carson back on the path to Washington to continue fighting for working families."

She said the SEIU registered 4,500 new voters in the final two weeks; ran six TV ads on behalf of Obama and Andre Carson; sent six direct mail pieces for Obama and Thompson; knocked on 60,000 doors; made 789,584 phone calls; volunteers from Wisconsin and Illinois knocked



Thomson at the Indiana Democratic Convention where she did not get the UAW endorsement. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



on 23,472 doors in the final weekend; and 250 volunteers knocked on 18,000 doors in half of Gary's precincts.

In the aftermath of the election, however, the Thompson campaign largely credited the Steelworkers for putting them over the top in Lake County. The SEIU, it seems, was the campaign's stealth card. Democratic Party sources tell HPI that they pleaded with the UAW and Schellinger's campaign to deploy a thousand UAW people to stem what turned out to be a lethal threat, to no avail.

Mo Davidson of the UAW has found himself at odds with the Thompson campaign, actually suing them for a pre-primary TV ad. He has simply asked Thompson to agree to reinstate the "92-12" order signed by Gov. Evan Bayh on July 8, 1992, for collective bargaining. "Our members at 92-12 have remained active and intact," Davidson said. "What we've asked Jill Long Thompson to do is to do what the three prior governors have signed. Give us life before Mitch Daniels."

Davidson said that if Thompson can't unify the UAW, AFSCME and others that organized the "Unity Team," the whole thing "will end up with huge organizing drives again." He added that ultimately, it will be the decision of the state employees. "In my opinion, money is important, but it won't win this election," Davidson said. "Volunteers, arms and legs and unity as organized labor will. We've not always agreed with each other, but we don't belittle or bad mouth them. I understand SEIU. I understand why they support Jill. I would hope they pressure her as well" to return to Gov. Bayh's original 92-12 order.

As for the UAW, Thompson spokesman Jeff Harris told HPI, "We continue to talk to the UAW and we have a lot of support from members of the UAW." As for the SEIU, Harris said, "They are a major supporter of ours. We hope

that they continue to play a major role."

Thus, we find in the Thompson campaign one that isn't playing by the old rules. In part that is because Thompson found the party establishment aligned against her. It didn't move its campaign into the party's headquarters after the primary. It has supplanted the new union federation over the old one. It is playing under the radar this summer of the big city media. It has opted for populist issues (gas price suspension, returning the state surplus) even though it could put her at odds with Obama (who called the gas suspension a gimmick) and Speaker B. Patrick Bauer (who has declined to comment on her surplus return).

Thompson's campaign manager, Travis Lowe, "doesn't trust the media," acknowledged communications director Jeff Harris. Lowe's wife works for the Obama campaign.

When an upstart challenger campaign has access to the SEIU blank check, a potential national tidal wave, anti-incumbency fervor (though not nearly as many incumbents lost in the 2008 primary as they did in May 2007), it can tell the UAW and AFSCME to kiss off. It can hope to play the 2008 role of Greg Ballard, who raised a minimal amount of money and did a couple of late weekends of TV on the referendum of Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson. The difference between 2007 and the 2008 referendum on Gov. Daniels is that Ballard had no record, no negatives and didn't throw a speck of mud. Thompson won't have such anonymity.

As for how much money the Thompson campaign expects from SEIU, Harris simply said, "You'll have to ask SEIU." ❖

Bayh, from page 1

notable roll of the dice, he didn't even mean to step up to the table.

Bayh ended his own presidential candidacy in December 2006, months before the first primary and after the emergence of Sen. Barack Obama as the primary challenger to Hillary Rodham Clinton. "He knows when to hold 'em and when to throw 'em," said St. Joseph County Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan. "He knew if there was going to be an alternate to Hillary Clinton, it wasn't going to be him. He just has those kind of instincts. We talked about helping someone and whether he would be in line for the vice president."



"He called and said, 'Can you support Hillary?'" Morgan said, becoming one of many prominent Hoosier Democrats to do so. Bayh was positioning himself nicely for vice presidency. Like the rest of the nation, Clinton and Bayh were surprised by the deft race Obama ran to capture the Democratic nomination. Bayh remained fiercely loyal to Clinton, helping her eke out a win in the Indiana primary.

In an ironic twist, that service may have increased Bayh's value to the Obama campaign, which is still mending fences with Clinton supporters. Perhaps that healing process would be accelerated by putting one of her most ardent backers on the ticket. The drawbacks of doing so are limited. Bayh has served in the Senate in a way that has created few enemies, except, perhaps, for pro-choice activists who are



suspicious of his vote against partial-birth abortion. Otherwise, it's difficult to attack someone who has made promoting fatherhood a signature effort.

"He really hasn't gone out on a limb on any issues or policies--certainly not controversial ones," said Paul Helmke, former Fort Wayne mayor and Bayh's opponent in his first Senate race. "That's not a criticism. Caution is good."

Bayh's temperate manner shouldn't be mistaken for timidity. After taking 64 percent of the vote against Helmke, he is no longer seriously challenged in a state that is considered red on most political maps.

His ascendance is due to much more than his political pedigree as the son of a respected and admired senator, Birch Bayh. The younger Bayh has worked hard to place himself in the middle of the political spectrum. Republicans acknowledge that Bayh is a centrist - and they grudgingly give him credit for connecting with mostly conservative voters. "His political success has frustrated Republicans because of (our) inability to find an issue to use against him that has been inconsistent with the Hoosier electorate's viewpoint," said a Hoosier Republican official who asked not to be identified. He described Bayh's Senate career as "themeless" and designed to position him for the next arc in his political trajectory.

Offending Bayh doesn't pay - even for the GOP. But he doesn't do much to alienate Republicans or anyone else. "He's very pragmatic," said Mary Meagher, his first Senate press secretary and now a managing director at Public Strategies Inc. "He has a bipartisan orientation." Former Bayh chief-of-staff William D. Moreau Jr. observes, "His biggest disappointments are the intractable partisanship and fiscal insanity."

Bayh had a chance to burnish his centrist credentials as chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council from 2001 to 2005. He succeeded Sen. Joseph Lieberman, then a Connecticut Democrat, whom Bayh called a role model during his first media availability as a senator. Bayh teamed with Lieberman on the major piece of recent education legislation. Bayh also has reached out to Republicans. He joined presumptive GOP presidential nominee Sen. John McCain in 2001 on legislation to promote community service. He also has made a priority of forging a good working relationship with Sen. Richard Lugar.

On his side of the aisle, Bayh has been a catalyst for an informal group of centrists that have grown in influence.

Iraq War

If Bayh had to take a vote back, it would probably be on the 2002 Iraq War Resolution. While campaigning as a presidential candidate in New Hampshire in 2006, Bayh explained, "It turned out some of the most important information we relied upon at that time just was not accurate. There were no weapons of mass destruction. The administration has proven to be terribly incompetent in the way they've carried this out. Of course, we'd make different decisions based upon different facts as we know them today."

Appearing before the Washington Post editorial board in 2006, Bayh refused to endorse a pull out. "We've got to be somewhere between 'cut and run' ... and mindlessly staying the course," Bayh said. "You've got to have a sensible middle ground." Iraq is the one issue that a number of Hoosier Democrats have taken issue with the senator who delivered the party out of the desert in 1988.

In the aftermath, - like he did with his approach



Sens. Bayh and Obama on a flight to the Middle East. (Bayh Senate Photo)

to trade with China - Bayh took conspicuous stances that refined and sometimes corrected his initial position. He was one of the first Members to call for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld as it became clear how the Phase IV of the occupation was in atrophy. He voted against Condoleezza Rice's secretary of state confirmation.

An example of Bayh's Senate work comes with his decision to force the Pentagon to develop the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, which he secured



\$67 million in 2004 for Allison Transmission in Speedway to produce. It came as U.S. military fatalities in Iraq exploded due to roadside bombs with the insurgency spiking shortly after the occupation. Mo Davidson, who heads the Indiana UAW, said that Bayh's advocacy has protected American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, and "he's been a great asset for Allison Transmission Local 933 as well as Rolls-Royce, and AM General in Mishawaka."

Moreau calls Bayh's work on "up-arming Humvees" his greatest achievement even if history has proven that his war authorization vote was a mistake. "Can you imagine a Defense Department that sends our best to fight in Afghanistan and Iraq and forces them to use home-made, scavenged 'hillbilly armor' to protect them from low-tech roadside bombs?" Moreau asked. "Evan Bayh made this push at time when the Pentagon was saying they didn't need these vehicles, and troops were using spare parts sent by family members and what they could beg, borrow, steal or scavenge to outfit their vehicles. Evan really nailed Rumsfeld, took on the Pentagon and was proven right - the armored vehicles were needed and the lives of the good guys have been saved and more of the bad guys have been taken."

Davidson explained that when the Pentagon planned to cut the C-130 aircraft program, "Evan Bayh had them take another look into their strategy and needs" as a member of the Armed Services Committee.

"He has been instrumental in getting more orders for Rolls-Royce," Davidson said. "We've now got good equipment in the field and his foresight helped make that happen." How many jobs did these efforts impact here in Indiana? "Thousands," Davidson replied. Davidson and Bayh have each others' cell phone numbers. "If he has questions, he will not hesitate to call me on the phone and visa versa."

As for AM General, Davidson said there was a Pentagon push for the MRAP to replace the Hummer. "The MRAP is a huge vehicle that is not as flexible as the Hummer," he said. "Some of the military studies were not accurate." With Bayh's help, the Mishawaka plant will be producing the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle. Yet another example

is Bayh's work on the issue of intellectual property theft. Davidson said that counterfeiters will literally produce an auto part and stamp GM or Chrysler logos on to the piece. "That has cost manufacturers billions a year. He's been very instrumental in helping to stop that IP theft."



Bayh at Allison Transmission in Speedway where he made the case for the Mine Resistant Armored Vehicle. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Bayh's credentials on military issues was so sound that at the height of the Indiana presidential primary battle, Bayh joined Hillary Clinton at Allison and AM General on April 12 in an attempt to burnish what he called her "spine of steel" on co-joined defense and trade issues.

"In our eyes, he stands out," Davidson said. "He's Indiana. He's as big of an institution in Indiana as Sen. Lugar is."

National Security

Former congressman and 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer, himself a potential vice presidential pick, credits Bayh as being "extremely helpful and an advocate of reform and new national security ideas." When he was pushing the establishment of the 9/11 Commission, "The Bush administration initially fought those reforms, We needed someone with national security credentials and who was bipartisan," Roemer said. "He provided strategic help to us and was one of our key sponsors."

As those attending the Purdue University national security forum last week with Obama saw, Roemer says that Bayh has a "thorough understanding of national and economic security issues. He understands the new transnational security threats. He also knows the intersection of economic security issues and people's pocket books."

Trade & China

Although they are both centrists, Bayh is not nearly as aggressive a supporter of trade liberalization as former President Bill Clinton. Bayh couples votes to lower trade barriers with efforts to promote "fair trade."

For instance, Bayh came out in support of normal trade relations with China in 2000. Since then, he has written a bill called the Stopping Overseas Subsidies Act, which would allow the United States to impose penalties on foreign governments that give their companies free rent, electricity or materials that allow them to produce artificially low-priced goods. He also has sponsored a bill to combat intellectual property theft.

In more recent trade votes, he opposed the Central American Free Trade Agreement but supported a free trade agreement with Peru.

"I am most struck by the fact that I truly think he



gets it when it comes to understanding the impact of these unfair trade agreements on average Hoosier families," said Shaw Friedman, the former LaPorte County Democratic Chairman and a Bayh supporter since 1986. "It's not just theory or anecdotes for him. I've been with him as he has traveled to plant gates or even day care centers. There is a deep understanding that what he does in Washington very much affects the lives of the people he serves."

Friedman explained that Bayh has the "willingness to stand up to the very powerful China business lobby in Washington and have the guts to 'tell the emperor he has no clothes.' That will be critical in the years ahead with China (being) such a force in trade, the environment and other issues.

"If he's Vice President, I don't see a President Obama simply dispatching him off to state funerals," Friedman said. "This is the kind of spokesman and negotiator that any president would want representing us at difficult trade talks or sensitive negotiations on disarmament. Beneath that cool exterior and genial smile is a will of steel and a cast iron bottom that wouldn't leave a room until he got a deal that his country wanted and needed."

Fiscal Responsibility

When Bayh entered the Senate in 1999, he sought out former governors like Ohio's George Voinovich and centrists like Sens. Landrieu, Carper, Bill and Ben Nelson and Republicans like Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe. "He is drawn to and certainly prefers working with colleagues who are pragmatic rather than stridently partisan," Moreau explained. "After all, he learned as governor of Indiana that the best solutions are the ones that are reached in a common-sense, bipartisan, pragmatic way."

One area where Bayh can line up with conservative Democrats and Republicans is on spending issues. Former aide Mary Meagher says that Bayh prefers the term "fiscally responsible" to "fiscally conservative." His approach is informed by his years as governor, when he was responsible for the budget.

"His experience as an executive really influences his mindset as a legislator," Meagher said. "I truly believe Evan Bayh has an executive mindset, born of the way he began his public service career as Secretary of State and, of course, Governor," Moreau said. "I observed him assembling his team, setting the priorities and developing the plan of action. He demanded and received the highest level of performance from his people and didn't take kindly to excuses. The Senate is a place where a floor speech

is considered a measurement of action. Such process-trumps-product stuff drives Evan Bayh crazy."

One of the first examples of Bayh's approach came on the 2001 legislation that contained President Bush's first round of tax cuts. Bayh ultimately voted against it because of his concern about increasing the deficit. Bayh tried to thread the needle by promoting an alternative version of the measure that contained a "trigger mechanism" that would prevent tax cuts in years when the budget was in deficit. The idea drew opprobrium from then-White House Budget Director Mitch Daniels.

On more recent fiscal matters, Bayh has voted for an earmark moratorium while also approving to override a presidential veto of the \$307 billion farm bill. Earlier in his career, he voted against eliminating the estate tax.



Sens. Lugar and Bayh at a Senate hearing. The two enjoy a friendly, working relationship, unlike senators from other states. (Bayh Senate Photo)

Working with Lugar

As governor, Bayh had a good working relationship with U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. When he joined the U.S. Senate in 1999, Lugar spokesman Andy Fisher said that the two senators "struck a good tone" right away in working together not only on Indiana projects, but there has been "a crossover of broader legislative issues and projects." There is a prominent photo of the two senators at their first meeting that hangs in Lugar's Capitol Hill office. Fisher said the two talk often and meet for breakfast and lunch regularly.

The two also are adept at jointly announcing projects and grants that affect Indiana. Sources familiar with recent Hoosier Senate history describe the working relationship between Bayh and Lugar as better than those Lugar had with former Republican Sens. Dan Coats and



Dan Quayle. "There's not competition and rivalries to get things done for the state," Fisher said. "In some states you see an almost constant rivalry between the two senators."

As was prominently featured at Barack Obama's forum at Purdue University last week, Bayh and Lugar are working on global nuclear energy with the goal of safeguarding the resulting fissile material from ending up in weapons programs. Bayh and Lugar drafted the legislation to fund the international fuel bank. Fisher predicts it will pass sometime in the next few years.

Fisher also noted that Hoosiers benefit from having their two senators serving on different committees: Lugar on Foreign Affairs and Agriculture; Bayh on Banking and Armed Services. "This is a relationship that started out on the right foot and has continued," Fisher said. "Their greatest strengths have been helping Indiana with a unified effort in the Senate."

Partial-birth abortion

The Bayh vote that could best be defined as a risk is the one he cast in 2003 to ban partial-birth abortion. It put him in line with many Hoosiers, but did lasting damage to his standing with the Democratic base. Bayh cast that vote from his heart and did not make any calculations about what it would do to him politically, according to a knowledgeable source.

Fatherhood

If there is a point on the moral compass that could most afix him to Obama's rising star, it is fatherhood. The two come at it 180 degrees apart, Obama's father left his family when he was age 2, and he was essentially raised by his mother, step-father, and then his grandparents. Bayh was what John Fogarty of Credence Clearwater Revival might call "the senator's son; the fortunate one." He was 6 years old when House Speaker Birch Bayh upset U.S. Sen. Homer Capehart just weeks after the Cuban Missile Crisis, a fact mentioned in one of the earliest scenes of the movie "Thirteen Days."

"Having served them both, I think father imparted to son many important lessons, including the importance of constituent service," Moreau explained. "I know how many times I heard Birch Bayh recount 'the Black Lung Story,' and I daresay Evan heard it 1,000 times more." Birch Bayh, who authored two amendments to the U.S. Constitution, would tell people how a caseworker in his office worked doggedly to help a coal miner get black lung disease benefits in his final years. It formed the core

of "why we serve." That has translated from father to son occupying the same Senate seat.

Both Bayh and Obama have written books about their fathers. Bayh's 2003 book "From Father to Son: A Private Life in a Public Eye" recounts the story of his relationship with his parents that brought him from Shirkieville, Ind., to the White House, where, as a 9-year-old boy he was fascinated to watch President Lyndon Johnson change TV channels with a James Bond-like remote control and then prop his feet up on the dinner table. Obama wrote "Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance" that he wrote long before he became a U.S. senator and was published in 1995. In this book, Obama formed an image of his absent father from stories told by his mother and her parents. The two families have young children: Bayh's 12-year-old twin sons; Obama's young daughters.

"Evan's fatherhood took an abstract notion and made it a everyday reality: any decent public official thinks about how his/her policies will affect the next generation," Moreau explained. "For the last 12-plus years, Evan has two faces in his mind when he thinks about policymaking."

In working through a staff-provided summary of Bayh's Senate record, his legislation ranges from making school buses more efficient; protecting military families by eliminating the "Patriot Penalty" for National Guard and reservists; punishing banks who foreclose on homes of military families; forcing the Bush administration to provide extra funding for the Children's Health Insurance Programs; and passing a \$12,000 tax deduction for college tuition.

In one case where the war and families came together was the case of Indiana National Guardsman Sgt. Gerald Cassidy, who died alone at the Fort Knox Warrior

Transition Unit after suffering wounds in Iraq. Bayh passed legislation that required the Department of Defense and Veterans Administration to establish maximum waiting times for soldiers seeking specialty care, diagnostic referrals and surgery.

From Senate to Vice President?

Bayh is at the top of some conspicuous veepstakes speculation. The Washington Post's Chris Cillizza has him listed at No. 1. "At 52 (he looks younger), Bayh would allow Obama to cast the choice between the tickets as generational in nature," Cillizza wrote.

"McCain's age is certain to be an issue for voters in the fall election -- at 72 he would be the oldest person ever elected to a first term as president -- and many Democrats see this election shaping up as a re-run of the 1992 race when the



Marvella, Evan and Birch Bayh before the family Senate dynasty began



underlying choice was between young and old. For many Democrats, an Obama-Bayh ticket would look a lot like that 1992 Clinton-Gore ticket -- a successful blueprint that led to eight years of Democratic control of the White House. Although Bayh is on the young side, he also has a deep and nuanced political resume that would seemingly allow Obama to fight back against the inexperience charge being lobbed at him. Bayh can speak authoritatively on a broad palette of issues ranging from tax cuts to American policy toward China -- the result of his years spent in both state and federal government."

In a companion piece arguing against Bayh's nomination, Cillizza writes, "Depending on how you look at it, Bayh's centrist approach to governance is either evidence of his commitment to bipartisanship or a sign that he doesn't believe in much of anything. Bayh is almost always in the ideological center of the Senate -- a position that has served him well in terms of electoral politics but has left many people wondering exactly what sits at the core of Bayh's governing philosophy. One close observer of Bayh's decade in the Senate argued that he has yet to distinguish himself in that body, adding that there isn't a single issue on which Bayh has led."

And, Cillizza adds, "Bayh would be a charisma drain. He would break up the logic of the ticket, turning Obama into a conventional candidate in a year when out-of-the-box appeal is the hot commodity."

If his abortion record doesn't knock Bayh out of contention as a vice presidential candidate, Senate politics might. Democrats covet a 60-vote majority that would deny Republicans the opportunity to filibuster bills. Even in a political year that is shaping up as well for Democrats as this one, it will be tough to attain the magic Senate number.

That goal might be put out of reach, if an Obama/Bayh ticket is elected. Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels enjoys a commanding lead in his re-election race at the moment. If he prevails in November and Bayh heads to the White House, Daniels would get to choose Bayh's successor and add to the GOP Senate column.

"For all the effort Democrats put into picking up a seat, I don't think they want to give one away," said Helmke, who is now president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Another state Republican asserts that Bayh would do what's best for his career. "I sense Evan Bayh would rather be vice president than worry about who's going to

be in that Senate seat," he said.

Moreau said, "If I were advising Sen. Obama (which I am not), I'd pick Evan because I'd want a pragmatic, results-driven, loyal partner who has actually had to govern during tough economic times. I'd want someone at my side who has drafted and passed budgets, hired and fired people, worked with and inspired business and labor to focus on economic development, and stood up to and balanced the many competing interests. There isn't a great deal Evan Bayh hasn't experienced. Evan Bayh can see around corners."



Sens. Clinton and Bayh following their trip to Iraq and Afghanistan in January 2007. (HPI Photo by Mark Curry)

Friedman explained, "Frankly, if he's named as a vice presidential nominee, the national press predictably will focus on superficial things like his good looks and All-American family which are certainly true. Some of us who know the guy understand there is also a tremendous substance, sense of compassion and intellect that would serve him very well as Vice President."

The years of 2007 and 2008 have provided some of the sharpest images of Bayh as a Hoosier power center. The "charisma drain" was absent when Bayh spoke emotionally about Hillary Clinton at the Anderson Wigwam in March and while introducing her at her victory speech on May 5 in Indianapolis. While the mostly-accurate Obama models had him

winning Indiana, most credit what Bayh called a "seamless" integration of his political organization with Clinton's with the resulting, albeit tiny, win.

"Obama's group thought they were going to win Indiana and they credit him and the hard work of the Clinton for her win," said Morgan, adding, "Evan never said a bad word about Barack Obama." In a twist of irony, Obama's defeat in his neighboring state may be drawing him to Bayh as a running mate.

Obama, whose ascension clipped Bayh's presidential bid, then prompting him to seek his future with the wife of an impeached president he would defend, has set the stage in Indiana with more than two dozen local offices and poll numbers that show Indiana's 11 Electoral College votes in play.

The question to be answered in the next 10 days will be whether he thinks Sen. Bayh can deliver those votes to the blue column. ❖



2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels, Democrat: Jill Long Thompson. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261.

2000 Results: O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Results:** Daniels (R) 1,302,912, Kernan (D) 1,113,900, Gividen (L) 31,644.

2008 Forecast: Watch for Democrats to make an issue of the recent Hoosier Lottery problem with the scratch off game continuing for two weeks when the prizes had run out.

As one Democrat told us, "Depending on how that ends up in a TV ad, with Evan Bayh on the ticket, and Obama carrying

Indiana, she can win by 5 or 6 percent. Without Evan Bayh, it's a dead heat." Daniels campaign manager Eric Holcomb begged to differ. He noted that the best campaign ground game in history - My Man Mitch's in 2004 - has only gotten better. "We've added thousands of new volunteers," Holcomb said. "And in every county, not just in pockets." He noted that the Daniels campaign signed up more than 100 new volunteers at the recent Indiana Black Expo.

It took nearly three days between when we fired off four policy questions to Jill Long Thompson on Sunday morning to get an e-mail response. The campaign suggested originally that we would get Thompson on the phone. But Wednesday morning we received these answers through campaign communications director Jeff Harris. Thompson, he said, was "unavailable" and on a flight (an explanation that more than a decade into the cell phone saturation, just doesn't fly).

So, here goes:

Q. What would Jill Long Thompson have done to keep GM and Monaco from laying off the close to 2,000 workers? As governor, would she be strong enough to buck the national trends that have led to a decline in the need for durable goods?

A. As governor, Jill would work to overhaul the state's entire economic climate, thus making Indiana a more attractive and competitive state to in which to do business. As outlined in the economic plan released earlier this year, Jill believes that by removing barriers to economic growth and making it easier for companies to invest in Indiana, more businesses will come here and more jobs will stay here. If we create a business climate that allows Indiana to truly stand out from the pack, then we will be in a much better position to withstand national economic downturns. That is why, in her economic plan she places incentives into the tax code - investing in new technology,



creating good-paying jobs and offering benefits to employees - that will help Indiana stand out, while encouraging the creation of jobs that can support a family. Additionally, her economic tiers proposal will allow all Indiana communities to participate. By targeting resources to areas that are struggling we can remove more barriers and further diversify our economy. Finally, as governor, Jill would work closely with business leaders, her agency heads and economic development leaders from around the state to target businesses that could face difficult economic times before they hit them, not after they are already laying off workers. Jill is committed to be a full partner with our businesses and workers, not just someone who comes around only in good times.

Q. Ditto with the floods (which analysis has shown impacted the June jobless rates that went up .5 percent to 5.8 percent)?

A. Jill and Dennie (Oxley) have toured the flood ravaged areas, and have come away with a number of ideas on how to help these communities come back. The first is implementing her economic tiers plan. This would allow the state to target resources into these counties, while helping them to invest in new, greener technologies that will help businesses achieve long-term sustainability.

Q. Mortgage foreclosures: According to the New York Times on Saturday, the mortgage crisis originated from Wall Street. It notes that prices multiplied as many homeowners took on more property than they could afford, lured by low introductory interest rates that eventually reset higher, sending many people in foreclosure. It notes that brokers lent "almost indiscriminately, offering exotically lenient terms - no money down, no income, no job requirements." What leverage does an Indiana governor have over that scenario?

A. As governor, Jill will aggressively act to address the sub-prime mortgage crisis on the state level. This includes working with the legislature to enact new laws and working with state agencies to reduce home foreclosures and better educate first-time homeowners. Using her experience in Congress and at USDA, she will also use the bully pulpit of the governor's office to urge Congress and the President to act to make reforms on the national level. Indiana has one of the highest rates of home foreclosures in the nation, and the fact that Mitch Daniels has been largely silent on this issue is unacceptable.

Q. Has Jill discussed the issue of returning the surplus with Speaker Bauer? What was his response?

A. Jill speaks with Speaker Bauer regularly. He is a strong supporter. As you know he has been out front on calling for suspending and capping the sales tax for a long time.

We called Speaker Bauer to ask if he supports a return of the state surplus. His staff presumably passed the message on and there was no response. **Status:** Leans



Daniels

Congressional

7TH CD: Republican: Gabrielle Campo. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Andre Carson. **2008 Outlook:** Campo won a second



ballot GOP caucus victory last Friday night over a field of six candidates. And now the fascinating 2008 saga of the 7th CD will bolt unobstructedly toward a Carson win in November, leaving a trail littered with wannabees that included three incumbent state reps, a former state health commissioner, a former publisher of the Jerusalem Post, and now two different GOP nominees, all defeated by the novice grandson of the late

U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. With Barack Obama poised to draw huge numbers of 7th CD voters to the polls, this race will draw no resources from the state, county or national GOP. Campo becomes an earnest, young, sacrificial lamb. Status: Safe Carson.

Indiana Legislative

HD63: Republican: Mark Messmer. Democrat: DuBois County Commissioner John Burger. **2008 Outlook:** At events Tuesday in Jasper, and Washington, Ind., the Indiana Right to Life PAC endorsed Messmer. Both Messmer Burger are members of the local Dubois County Right to Life. Messmer said minority House Republicans would have to be in the House majority again for Right to Life's legislation to succeed. Burger said later that he and Messmer don't disagree on the abortion issue, but that voters are focused instead on economic issues. "I have been a lifelong supporter of right-to-life issues. There's no difference in Mr. Messmer's or my position on the abortion issue," said Burger, a Dubois County commissioner and former county councilman. "Any legislative pieces supported by Right to Life, I would wholeheartedly, vigilantly push to move them through the House," said Messmer, a licensed professional engineer from Jasper. Messmer cited last session's Senate Bill 3, a proposal to allow pharmacists to decline to fill prescriptions if they believed drugs would be used to induce abortion, assisted suicide or euthanasia. After initially passing in the Republican-controlled state Senate in January, the bill died in the Democratic-controlled House without

Montagano takes aim at Souder with more \$\$

By RYAN NEES

FORT WAYNE — Mike Montagano achieved a rare feat last week: at the close of the second quarter FEC reporting period, the Democratic candidate in the third congressional district not only had outraised incumbent Congressman Mark Souder, but his campaign had more cash on hand as well.

Montagano is a savvy, if unlikely, candidate. At 27, he's never been elected to any political office and is barely out of law school. In Fort Wayne he opened the campaign's second office Tuesday, making the announcement before a bank of broadcast television cameras with Mayor Tom Henry and a slight tremble in his left hand.

But it's Mark Souder, the 14-year veteran U.S.

representative of this district, who has reason to be nervous. Indeed, Montagano's inexperience belies the perfect storm of opportunity that may yet brew here.

If there's a pickup opportunity to be had for Indiana Democrats this

fall, it's here, where Souder emerged weakened in 2006 with the poorest showing of his career, edging former Fort Wayne city councilman Tom Hayhurst 54-46 percent. The race became so unexpectedly close that the National Republican Congressional Committee in early October turned to D.C. pollster The Tarrance Group to reassess Souder's campaign. The results so panicked the national GOP that two weeks later it spent nearly \$100,000 in television advertising attacking Hayhurst.

There's recognition from both campaigns of this year's increased stakes. In the second quarter of 2006, Hayhurst had \$148,958 on hand after raising \$50,403, compared to Montagano's \$351,701 on hand after \$142,107 raised. Souder, too, is outperforming his 2006 campaign. He has \$323,339 on hand after raising \$91,573, compared to the \$68,358 he had on hand after raising just \$64,413 in 2006. Montagano's campaign is slightly underperforming relative to Joe Donnelly's 2006 campaign, the best late-blooming analog to his campaign. The now-congressman raised \$169,017 and had \$442,117 on hand this time two years ago.

Souder spokesman Martin Green observed, "According to our opponent's own polling numbers, Mark Souder is ahead 55-28. During the 2006 election, Con-





gressman Souder's number didn't reach 55 until the last week of the campaign. It takes more than money from union bosses in Washington, D.C., for an unknown, inexperienced lawyer from Indianapolis to take on an incumbent polling at 55 in a Republican district."

Montagano nonetheless remains in an extraordinary position. He's one of 22 challengers nationwide to out-raise incumbent opposition, and one of only nine challengers to finish the quarter with more cash on hand, according to the campaign.

"First and foremost, look at where we stand as far as the money we've been able to raise," Montagano told HPI Tuesday. "We've raised over half a million dollars now, we have more cash on hand than Mark Souder. This is a hundred percent more than the money Tom Hayhurst sat on in 2006. We will have the resources to get this message out."

Montagano's early performance is the result of what has surely come to consume the campaign: convincing the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to prioritize the race. The national campaign arm for House Democrats raised \$17 million in the second quarter, closing the period with \$19 million on hand, compared with the dismal \$2 million the National Republican Congressional Committee had on hand at the end of June.

The vast national disparity between the DCCC and the NRCC has allowed national Democrats to target 38 Republicans so far in its "Red to Blue" program, which funneled more than \$20 million to 56 candidates in 2006. Montagano currently sits atop the organization's "Emerging Races" list, often a precursor to "Red to Blue" designation. Hayhurst was named to the same list in 2006, but much later in the year, just two weeks before the election.

"We've worked closely with the national party, which is something the Hayhurst campaign did not do in 2006, and I think that was a grave mistake. We are a DCCC Red to Blue Emerging Race; we're one of the top 57 races in the country," Montagano said. "We're seeing institution support from Washington, which is something that was never seen by the Hayhurst campaign, and is crucial to the resources that we'll be able to raise to win this race."

If Montagano wins the DCCC designation, it will mean a cash infusion of about \$400,000 for his campaign, only slightly less than the amount Souder spent (\$572,783) in all of 2006. Souder, who told Roll Call this week that he wasn't "good at dialing for dollars," hasn't had a DCCC-funded opponent since Jill Long Thompson, the congresswoman and now gubernatorial nominee whom he defeated in 1994. In 2004, his Democratic opponent had stage fright during a debate and fled the TV studio.

This year, with the NRCC's anemic fundraising and the Republican National Committee's attention and cash focused on the presidential campaign, Souder's unlikely to get the national GOP bailout he got in 2006. In 2008 though, with supply diminished, demand is likely to be even greater: Montagano points to an April poll his campaign commissioned indicating Souder's approval and disapproval ratings were a wash. Of the 504 likely voters pollster Cooper Secrest surveyed, 46 percent gave Souder a positive approval rating and 46 percent a negative rating.

The campaign, heartened by the 2006 results, is even more optimistic this year, pointing to the sharp increase in Democratic

party identification that has accompanied Barack Obama's presidential campaign and the thousands of dollars the Illinois senator continues to spend on paid advertising and staff in the state. They also point to the presence on the gubernatorial ticket of Jill Long Thompson, who represented northeastern Indiana for six years.

Montagano's staff, then, is busy laying the groundwork for a campaign that they hope will lift suddenly, meteorically, with the rising Obama and Long Thompson tides. Thompson expects to run well in her old congressional district in her race against Gov. Mitch Daniels. The campaign's hired five staffers, opened two offices in the district, and contracted a team of national consultants to advise him, Mainstreet Communications for media, the Baughman Company for direct mail, and Cooper Secrest as pollster.

"Polling is key, raising money is key, and continuing to show good press, good media, and that there's things on the ground that are moving, are all key to that," Montagano said. "And we think we're at the forefront of all three of those." ❖



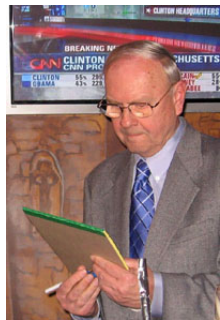
Democratic 3rd CD nominee Mike Montagano opens his campaign headquarters in Fort Wayne with Mayor Tom Henry (right) and Clerk Sandra Kennedy (center) on hand. (HPI Photo by Ryan



Campaign report is good news for JLT

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - The latest campaign finance reports show Gov. Mitch Daniels, the Republican incumbent, had \$2.8 million in campaign cash on hand on July 1, nearly three times as much as Democratic challenger Jill Long Thompson, who had just over \$1 million.



That's good news for Long Thompson.

Good news?

Well, it could have been worse.

Some political pundits thought it would be. Long Thompson had nary a cent left in her campaign coffers after she narrowly won the Democratic nomination in the May primary election.

Daniels, unopposed for Republican renomination, has been collecting campaign funds at a record pace throughout his term as governor.

Actually, in terms of campaign funding, it is worse for Long Thompson than those cash-on-hand totals indicate. Still, as we often have seen, money isn't everything in a political race. It appears that Long Thompson could at least have the minimum resources needed for a chance to take advantage of the Daniels vulnerability shown in polls and to pull an upset. Those chances could be enhanced if the presidential race, so helpful to "my man Mitch" last time, is instead a plus for Long Thompson this time.

As I have often pointed out: Although money isn't everything, is sure is something. And the campaign finance situation for Long Thompson is worse than shown by that 3-1 advantage for Daniels in cash on hand. With the money the governor raised early, he has spent over \$7 million already this year, much of it for television advertising to deal with potential vulnerability and improve his image. He also has lined up TV right through August, including key spots during the Olympics.

It could have been worse for Long Thompson. It wasn't, however, because she raised \$1.6 million in the reporting period of April through June, putting her in the same league during that time as Daniels, who raised \$1.8 million. If she had not done well in fund-raising since the primary, speculation now would be that she was done. Such a perception would have made it far more difficult to raise funds for the remainder of the campaign. The fact that she displayed ability to attract donors will help in obtaining more contributions.

Barack Obama's efforts to put Indiana in play in the presidential race and all the earlier excitement and voter registration from the May Democratic primary are a plus for Long Thompson.

Daniels ran a superb campaign in 2004 and probably would have won without presidential help. But his victory margin grew as President Bush, then highly popular in Indiana, campaigned for him and hailed him as "my man Mitch."

Now, President Bush is about as popular in Indiana as Kelvin Sampson would be at an Indiana University basketball game. No "my man Mitch" mention this time, at least not by Daniels.

Obama has run his three general election TV spots in Indiana, including one now that features his work with Sen. Richard G. Lugar, the popular Indiana Republican, to lock up loose nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union and elsewhere. In seeking to turn Indiana into a battleground state rather than the usual sure thing for Republicans in the presidential race, Obama went to Purdue University last week for a discussion of nuclear, chemical, biological and cyber threats. With him was Indiana's other popular senator, Democrat Evan Bayh, a possible vice presidential running mate.

If Obama actually selected Bayh, Indiana would indeed be a battleground state and Long Thompson would benefit from more Hoosiers deciding to vote Democratic in the presidential election. Long Thompson already was helped by presidential politics. Her primary election victory over the Democratic organization choice was achieved with the help from voters attracted to the party primary mainly to support either Obama or Hillary Clinton. But Long Thompson can't count just on presidential race help. Indiana voters split tickets. That's why both Lugar and Bayh win big, with Lugar doing well in Democratic counties, Bayh in Republican counties.

Daniels is running as a guy who brought change. While he concedes he may have moved "too fast" for some Hoosiers, he will seek in his myriad TV ads to show that overall he has improved conditions and future prospects in the state.

For Long Thompson, the task will be to convince voters that the changes Daniels cites were not in the best interests of the state and that she could do a better job in providing brighter prospects for the future.

Long Thompson will have less TV time to present her side. She will have to rely more on personal campaigning seek at least the minimum funding to be competitive in TV air wars. Money isn't everything, but it sure is something. ❖

Colwell has covered Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.



Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette:

There aren't too many things longtime political reporters find startling, but the cameo appearance of Republican Dick Lugar on a campaign commercial for Democrat Barack Obama is one of them. When Obama released the video last week of the ad that will air in 18 states, including Indiana, there was lots of scurrying around to find out What It Means. Was this Lugar – the most popular Republican in Indiana – quietly signaling his endorsement of Obama? Was Obama doing a political no-no of usurping Lugar's image, implying an endorsement that wasn't freely given? The second question is easier to answer: No. Obama didn't ask or get Lugar's permission to include the Hoosier Republican's photo in the commercial. However, Obama's campaign gave Lugar a heads-up. Translation: No formal approval was sought or granted, but Lugar had every opportunity to say, "Whoa, buddy! I do not want to appear in a Democratic presidential candidate's TV spot." If that had happened, Obama's campaign would have retooled the ad. After all, one of the messages of the commercial is Obama's ability to work with Republicans. Had a Republican well known for not being a flame-thrower publicly distanced himself from such an ad, it would have seriously undercut that message. So Obama would not have risked it. Obama is one of Lugar's few converts to the view that nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and materiel is far too easily obtained by, as Lugar would say, "bad actors" and that Americans really need to focus on that. Flash forward to the 2008 presidential campaign. Of all the issues Obama could choose to feature in TV commercials, one he selects is the proliferation of nuclear weapons. "The single most important national security threat that we face is nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists." That's a big statement. It's one Lugar has said over and over and over in the past two decades, but it's gotten little traction. Lugar's tacit approval of Obama's use of him in the commercial is not a message that Lugar doesn't support John McCain or that Lugar is angling to be secretary of state in an Obama administration. It's a powerful signal that for a serious thinker – and Lugar is certainly that – the issue of loose nukes trumps politics. ❖

Doug Ross, Times of Northwest Indiana:

Transportation departments across the United States are switching to four-day, 10-hour work weeks because of high gasoline prices. Necessity, it seems, is the mother of innovation. The changes makes sense. Those departments pay workers for their travel time from the county or state highway garage to the work site as well as the gasoline or diesel fuel to get there. Make fewer trips, via longer days, and less fuel is needed, plus workers' time is used more efficiently. That's not just good for the government's bottom

line and efficiency, but also for the environment. Fewer trips means less pollution, too. With the new four-day work weeks, some crews will work Monday through Thursday; others will work Tuesday through Friday. At the Lake County Highway Department, however, all the crews are switched to a Monday through Thursday schedule. Why isn't work being done on Fridays? ❖

Stephanie Salter, Terre Haute Tribune-Star:

Purdue computer science professor Eugene Spafford had the best line about media coverage of Barack Obama's extensive national security seminar in West Lafayette last week: "Good thing Angelina Jolie gave birth earlier in the week or the summit wouldn't have even made the press." "Spaf," as he is known by his students, colleagues, associates and fellow experts in international cyber security, is always good for a humorous, big-picture observation that lasers in on the truth. As director of Purdue's CERIAS program — the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security — he has served on numerous national research teams, testified before Congress and advised presidents. His name is synonymous around the world with cyber security. Who better to summon to the invitation-only Obama security summit at Purdue. Ah, but no one thought to invite Spaf until the night before. "The press was told that Purdue was chosen because of the leading role our researchers have in various areas of public safety and national security — including the leading program in cyber security ..." Spaf wrote on his long blog entry about the summit (<http://snipurl.com/obpugs>). "I found it rather ironic that security would be given as the reason ... and yet those of us most involved with those security centers had not been told about the summit or given invitations." A few e-mails about this irony apparently woke up the proper people. Tuesday night Spaf was invited to join about 500 other folks the next day in the Purdue Memorial Union to listen to panel discussions on three big security threats — nuclear weapons, bioterrorism and cyber manipulation. Regardless of the last-minute invitation, some statistics he found to be "a bit of hyperbole," and all the focus on cyber terrorism, Spaf's general review of the summit was positive. "I was really quite impressed with the scope of the discussion, given the time and format, and the expertise of the panelists," he wrote. "Senator Obama was engaged, attentive, and several of his comments and questions displayed more than a superficial knowledge of the material in each area. "Given our current President referring to 'the Internets' and Senator McCain cheerfully admitting he doesn't know how to use a computer, it was refreshing and hopeful that Senator Obama knows what terms such as 'fission' and 'phishing' mean. And he can correctly pronounce 'nuclear'! His comments didn't appear to be rehearsed — I think he really does 'get it.'" ❖





Hogsett expected to launch mayoral bid

INDIANAPOLIS - Informed and reliable sources tell HPI that former secretary of state Joe Hogsett is expected to begin preparing for an 2011 run for mayor of Indianapolis. The source said that Hogsett will begin the process after the November elections (Howey Politics Indiana).



Richard represents Obama at NLC

WASHINGTON - Campaign surrogates for each of the presumptive presidential nominees pledged that their candidate will work with NLC and city leaders to address the challenges facing cities and the country during a new Administration at the annual summer meeting of the NLC Board of Directors in Huntsville, Ala., last week. The national elections, the troubled economy and a new vision for federal transportation programs dominated the Board agenda at the meeting hosted by NLC President Cynthia McCollum, council member from Madison, Ala. "We stand at a critical crossroads for the future of cities and this country," said McCollum. "The next president must recognize that cities and towns are the economic engine and base of innovation in this country. It is only by working with us — instead of doing things to us — that the new Administration will be able to address the pressing issues of our day." Representatives for the campaign of Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) included Robert Weissbourd, president of RW Ventures, LLC, and chair of the Urban Policy Committee for the campaign, and Graham Richard, former mayor of Fort Wayne.

John calls for Bateman to resign

INDIANAPOLIS - Marion County Republican Central Committee Chairman Tom John today called for City-County Councilor Paul Bateman (D-District 11) to recuse himself from the Council's Investigative Committee on Ethics (Howey Politics Indiana). "Elected Officials who serve on Committees reviewing the actions of their peers must be free from ethical investigations themselves," said John. "Since it has now become clear that Councilor Bateman is under such an investigation, it is improper for him to continue serving on the Investigative Committee on Ethics."

Daniels distributes trails money

MERRILLVILLE - Gov. Mitch Daniels hopes that in the next decade, every Hoosier will live within 15 miles of a bike or walking trail (Times of Northwest Indiana). Daniels on Wednesday presented Munster and Merrillville officials with grant money for trail projects as part of the state's Hoosiers on the Move plan. Munster received \$900,000 for the expansion of the Pennsy Greenway, and Merrillville received \$800,000 for the C&O Trail. The goal is to connect Indiana via trails, an ambition reflected in the state's master parks plan. "We're out to make this a statewide phenomenon," Daniels said. A well-linked trail system is closely related to the state's economic future, he said. Job-seekers might be more drawn to Indiana if it offers solid recreational opportunities. "Being an attractive and fun place to live can be a tie-breaker sometimes," Daniels said.

GOP ponders HD19 vacancy

CROWN POINT - Lake County GOP Chairman John Curley said he is

polling local Republicans to find the best possible candidates to fill the ticket vacancy for the Indiana House District 19 seat (Times of Northwest Indiana). "A poll was taken. We have multiple candidates, and we are trying to separate the wheat from the chaff," Curley said Wednesday. Republicans have until next month to hold a caucus of precinct committeemen in the district, which includes Crown Point and rural sections of Lake, Porter and Newton counties. The vacancy on the Nov. 4 general election ballot stems from Republican primary election winner Andrew Webster's withdrawal from the ballot last week for undisclosed personal reasons. Curley said he hopes to call a caucus before the 30-day deadline -- but not until the committeemen are assured of a good choice of candidates. "I don't believe in putting a warm body in a vacancy," Curley said. "But it's America, and I don't stop anyone from running either." Jim Cuffia, a civil/structural engineer, has announced his interest in running. He ran unsuccessfully for the seat in 2004 and for a Crown Point City Council seat in 2003.

Columbus to cut budget \$3.2M

COLUMBUS - Columbus will lose \$3.2 million from its budget in 2010 due to flood damage and property tax laws, Mayor Fred Armstrong said Wednesday at a meeting about Greenbelt Golf Course (Columbus Republic). "You'll see some services reduced," he said.

Hogsett expected to launch mayoral bid

BLOOMINGTON - Indiana University and Bloomington city transit officials say they are considering a merger of their bus systems in an effort to fight rising fuel costs (Associated Press).