



Pence endorsement of Coats a deal maker?

Former senator
poised for nomination
as opponents lack
funds for media blitz

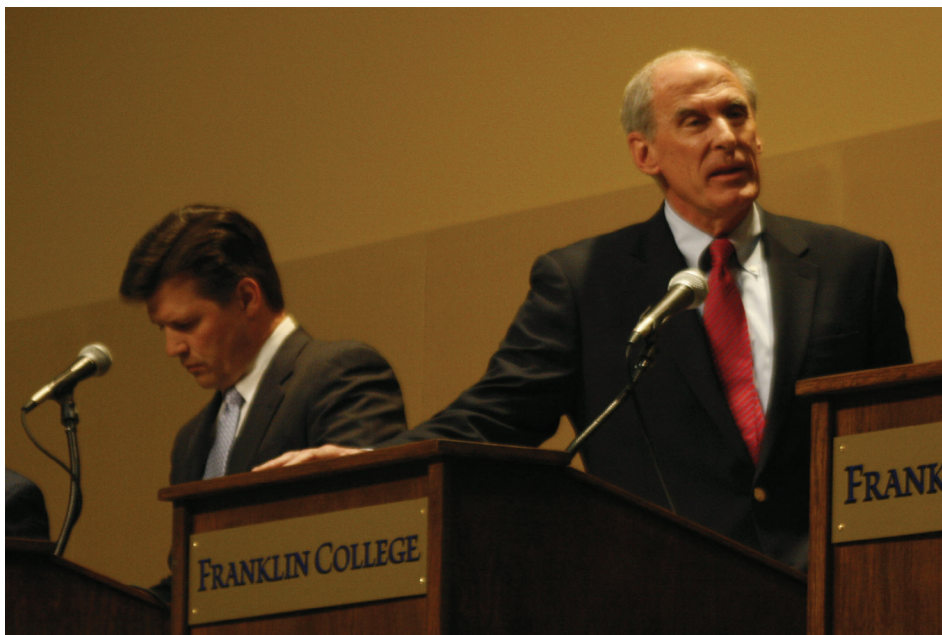
By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FRANKLIN - Wednesday's endorsement of Dan Coats by U.S. Rep. Mike Pence may have sealed up the Republican U.S. Senate nomination.

Pence not only heads the House Republican Conference, but is extremely popular with Hoosier Republicans, having addressed the party's state dinner earlier this month to a rousing reception. He is also considered a favorite should he jump into the 2012 Indiana gubernatorial race, and many Hoosiers have urged him to seek the presidency in 2012.

Pence talked with Coats shortly after Tuesday night's WFYI-TV debate.

In a statement released mid-day Wednesday, Pence said, "Dan Coats' integrity and conservative record make him the best candidate for the job. Dan is a proven conservative leader who is trusted by Hoosiers. I know Dan Coats well and I have long admired his personal faith, his devotion to



Dan Coats (right) received a gigantic endorsement from U.S. Rep. Mike Pence on Wednesday, which gives him a tremendous boost toward the nomination. Coats is shown here with former congressman John Hostettler at the Franklin College debate on Monday. (HPI Photo by Steve Dickerson)

family and his service to the people of Indiana. I know we will work together to support our troops, create jobs, restore fiscal discipline and defend traditional moral values. I

Continued on page 4

Mr. Smith backing Coats

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - When it comes to the Republican U.S. Senate race, Curt Smith has had vivid relationships with four of the five candidates.

He helped launch Richard Behney's campaign and he's worked with State Sen. Marlin Stutzman on marriage legislation with the Indiana Family Institute. He's also been Dan Coats' Senate state director and congressman John Hostettler's chief of staff.

As a reporter for the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, Smith covered the environment beat before join-



"His desire to vindicate himself is much less important than the public's confidence in the office. And public confidence is a fragile thing. I think the balance has tipped and I do think Carl Brizzi should resign."

- Scott Newman

PRESS

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ing Coats' staff in 1983, staying until 1994. He met Hostettler in 1994 at a Promise Keepers convention at the Hoosier Dome, then became his chief of staff in January 1995 after Hostettler had upset U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey.

He considers himself to be friends with both. But when it comes to the Senate primary, Smith is making it clear who he supports: Dan Coats.

"When Dan called me and said he was getting back in the race, I was very excited because I know a little bit about the Senate having worked there for six years," Smith told HPI. "I know how senators interact with one another. I am thoroughly convinced that Dan Coats would be the best possible senator from Indiana. That's not to take anything away from John Hostettler. John is a smart guy. But the House of Representatives is wholesale where groups and blocks come together to advance legislation. The Senate is retail. You've got to have Triple A people skills on legislation to get votes on your things. I just don't think John Hostettler is as well suited for the Senate as Dan Coats."

The stories coming from former Hostettler staffers are similar. They describe long car rides with the congressman across the sprawling 8th CD where there was no conversation. At times, Hostettler can become very introverted. He is described as an "ideologue" with an engineer mindset. "John's used to putting coal in there and getting electricity out of here and that's not always how the legislative process works," Smith said in describing the congressman who graduated from Rose-Hulman Institute and his career at Vectren. "A lot of times you need to bring the people skills in. You have to advance the conversation."

"It's not only because Dan's been there before and served years in the Senate, it's just his people skills, his ability to reach out to folks, who can do something with someone as far to the left as Ted Kennedy and not compromise his principles and not give the store away," Smith explained. "Usually in those days there was a pretty strong Democratic majority, as there is today. His conclusion was: this bill is going to move, I'm going to



make a bad bill better. He has the skills to negotiate with people who think differently; to blur the ideological lines and look for consensus."

"It's tough seeing John Hostettler having those kind of people skills," Smith continued. "I think John has this notion that the Senate is where you go and reflect. Because you have a six-year term it's the longest horizon in government; it's not a deliberative and reflective body as the Jimmy Stewart movies would suggest. The reality is the United States Senate is as reactive as the House, it just reacts differently. I just don't see John as the best suited candidate in there to get the job done for Indiana."

The term "ideological" kind of has a negative connotation these days, Smith acknowledged. "I would say that John is very idealistic," he continued. "He is committed to and guided by a set of principles that are not that different from Dan's. The way they go about it is really very different. John asserts them and wants to argue or use logic to get you to agree. Dan Coats will make the logical argument and establish the principles, but he knows that the art of persuasion includes a human dimension. Dan is going to connect with people."

Asked for examples, Smith pointed to Coats' work to revamp the U.S. tax code in 1986 and his pioneer efforts on what he called the Project for American Renewal that eventually formed the structure for President George W. Bush's faith-based initiatives.

Coats, Smith explained, began the "notion that it's appropriate for a secular government to work with faith-based communities; that those communities are going to provide services and provide a special dimension for solving human problems. It was kind of a surprise to people in the late '80s and early '90s. He's really the author of President Bush's faith-based initiative. The senator's staff was the core of what Bush took into the campaign. The kernels and nuggets of that came from Dan."

Smith remembers when Coats pressed President Reagan to double the dependent deduction from \$1,000 to \$2,000 during the last major Internal Revenue Service rewrite. "Dan secured a promise from President Reagan in a meeting with House Republicans," Smith recalled. "Dan almost single handedly was responsible for doubling the

dependency exemption."

As for Hostettler, Smith explained, "I just see John as a guy who makes the case and then he says, 'You decide.' Sometimes you've got to do more than that. You have to stay with it, be passionate and make the message. It was hard to get him to return media calls. He did not want to do fundraising. He did not want to meet with some of the constituent groups who came in to see him and that's a tough thing to do."

"Now John could argue, 'Hey we're a republic. You elect someone to make decisions for us.' You can find that in the Federalist Papers and you can argue that, but that's not how people see their members of Congress today," Smith said. "They want him to be responsive, to be receptive. They want the sense that they've been heard and are accessible."

There's another element to Smith's perception that Coats would be the better Republican nominee, and

that has to do with the 2006 election that Hostettler lost to U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth by 22 percent.

HPI reported in October 2006 that Hostettler essentially gave up on that race, citing several high level Evansville Republicans who were told that by the congressman. "I chastised you about that," Smith said. "I sent you an e-mail saying you were crazy." But in retrospect, Smith explained, "I don't really know what happened in 2006. I do know that in politics you accumulate enemies and they don't go away. I just think over 12 years things kind of came home to roost in 2006. I did not see him as giving up. I saw him as being fatalistic about a lack of a memory in the public. He didn't have the passion to convince people about his positions. He made the case but I didn't see him fighting about that case."

But the 2006 loss, the biggest by an incumbent that year, is in Smith's mind Hostettler's greatest liability. "The really tough question for John Hostettler to answer in his Senate campaign is, why should he be the one to carry the Republican Party's banner when he lost to Brad Ellsworth by 22 points?" Smith said. "That's a question for which I don't think John has a good answer."



Curt Smith has worked for both Sen. Coats and Rep. Hostettler, but says that Coats is better suited for forging legislation in the Senate. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Pence & Coats, from page 1

am proud to support Dan Coats as the Republican nominee to the United States Senate."

Coats added, "I am delighted to have the support of Mike Pence. Hoosiers are lucky to have a leader like Mike in the United States House of Representatives fighting for them every single day. Each time President Obama proposes job-killing, deficit-inflating legislation or weakens our national security, Mike Pence clearly and effectively voices the frustration and concerns of Hoosiers."

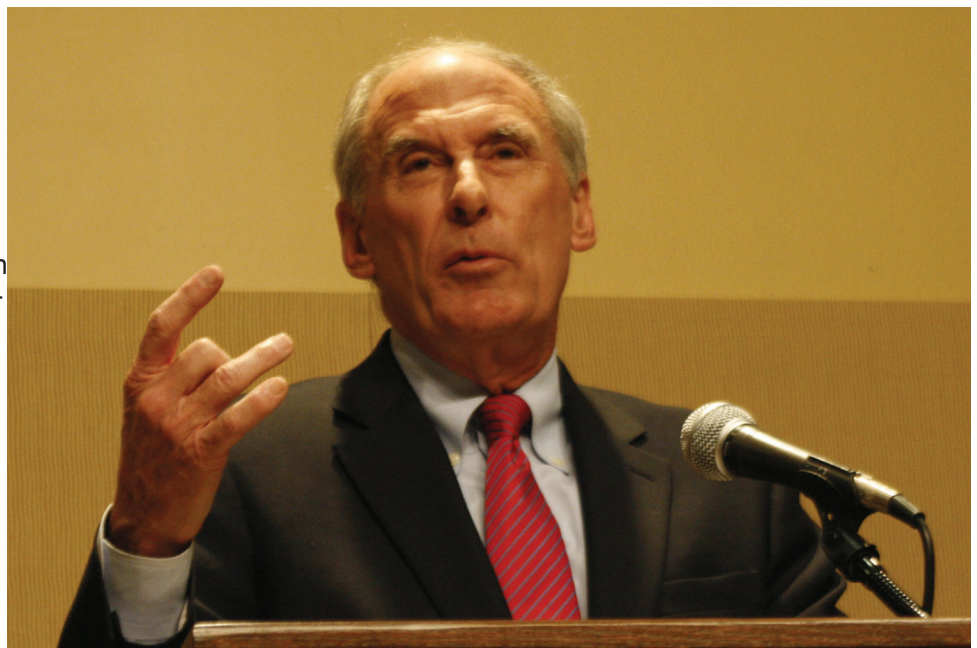
Going into Tuesday, there was still an air of uncertainty about an endorsement. Most observers saw Coats as the frontrunner, since he is the only candidate with statewide name ID, but he hasn't been on a ballot since 1992. However, he is well known in Republican women's clubs and other such organizations around the state and with older voters most likely to turn out. At the Franklin College debate on Monday, the candidates acknowledged the youthful audience and were wistful. "We haven't had much participation from young people," Coats lamented.

But that could be to his advantage. He didn't raise the kind of money needed to fuel 3,000 to 4,000 gross rating points that would sew this thing up. Lost in all the "loser" commentary on Coats' FEC report is all the money pouring into the contested 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th CD primaries with 40 candidates all pressing the GOP donor base. Plus, a number of Republican donors will jump on the nominee's bandwagon.

Coats needs only to be talking to likely Republican voters, so his early "statewide TV buy" was confined to Fox News. But campaign sources told HPI that anyone who hasn't seen a Coats TV ad will, and "will see it often" in the coming hours. The endorsements from Pence - truly a national rising star - and Dr. James Dobson will help solidify support on both the macro and micro levels. The Pence endorsement will serve as a clarion call to Republicans in general.

Coats is using the endorsement from Dobson to hit conservative talk and Christian radio, though it came after the initial radio buy. The Dobson endorsement only strengthened the impact of the ad. Dobson, the emeritus chair of Focus on the Family, explains, "You may know my conviction that strong families are fundamental to a healthy

society. It's also critically important for government to do no harm and to stay out of the way so that families can focus on what matters most. That's why, speaking as a private individual and not representing any organization, I urge you to vote for Dan Coats in the Indiana primary election on May 4th. I've always respected Senator Coats' commitment to families and I admire his determination to live out his Christian faith in public and private. I also appreciate his passionate defense of unborn babies. If my wife Shirley and I were Hoosiers, we'd definitely vote for Dan Coats in the May 4th primary. Again, this is Jim



Dan Coats makes a point at the Franklin College debate last Monday. (HPI Photo by Steve Dickerson)

Dobson asking you to join us in supporting strong families, limited government, lower taxes, and less spending by voting for Dan Coats."

In addition to the Pence and Dobson endorsements, the other candidates simply don't have enough name ID to get traction. And the window - from today through next Thursday - is rapidly closing as the broadcast environment begins to clutter up with the four congressional district primaries and the various independent buys.

John Hostettler has the evangelical network and his 8th CD base, but he was completely evasive about his FEC report, leading observers to conclude he raised the kind of money he used to in the Bloody 8th, which infuriated the NRCC. When he said at Franklin College he would finish the campaign with yard signs, bumper stickers and some radio, it sounded like a county commissioner campaign. Then again, in this particular election cycle, a grassroots campaign may be more appropriate than a network affiliate air



war.

Illustrative of Hostettler's financial dilemma is an e-mail he sent out to supporters Wednesday morning. It had links to three videos that the campaign can't afford to use in broadcast or cable.

Hostettler's networks with the Right to Life, 2nd Amendment, Tea Party and 9/12 groups should not be underestimated. His problem is that all that support is splintered. Indiana Right to Life, for instance, endorsed all five primary candidates. The Tea Party vote - estimated by Hostettler and Susan Martin of a Valparaiso Tea Party cell to be about 20,000 based on movement e-mail lists - is expected to be split by Hostettler, Stutzman and Richard Behney.

Hostettler was endorsed by the Liberty Caucus on Wednesday. "He's not a perfect candidate, as he opposes a Balanced Budget Amendment and term limits, supports a closed border, and is too conservative on most hot-button social issues (but doesn't usually believe the federal government should be involved)," the caucus said on its website. "Perhaps his most significant vote was his 2002 vote to oppose the War in Iraq. Hostettler favors the dissolution of the Department of Education, and voted against the No Child Left Behind Act because he believes education was a state matter. He also voted against most federal health care bills with the view that health care is a private or state matter. He maintains that many federal environmental laws and regulations infringed on individuals' property rights. He is active in promoting issues of freedom of religion and expression. He supported repeal of the estate tax, capital gains tax, and marriage tax penalty. Hostettler was recently endorsed by Congressman Ron Paul, and his supporters are having a MoneyBomb tomorrow."

Stutzman and Bates

Then there are Stutzman and Don Bates Jr., both with minuscule name ID.

Stutzman seems to be everyone's second choice. By mid-week, he had secured the endorsement of the American Conservative Union and U.S. Sen. James DeMint. The South Carolina Republican said of Stutzman, "Marlin Stutzman is the conservative outsider in the Indiana Senate race who will take on the Washington establishment. Stutzman is exactly the kind of leader Americans are looking for this year. He's young, he's principled, and he's ready to take the fight to Washington. Marlin Stutzman reminds me of Marco Rubio in Florida. He has the same passion, the same love for his country, and the same courage to fight for it."

Stutzman also began running a pretty good TV ad that moves from his LaGrange County farm to a graphic placing Coats and Hostettler in Washington. The question with Stutzman is, can he muster up enough money to hammer home the endorsements in this rapidly closing window? The Rasmussen Reports poll shows his positive/negatives at a tiny 6 and 7 percent. Those are minuscule numbers that show he's not very famous. He has a \$60,000 TV buy in Indianapolis and told me he hoped he would have enough to run ads in South Bend and Fort Wayne before the primary. In essence, if anyone seems to have some momentum at the beginning of the week, it was Stutzman. But by mid-week, there had been a definitive shift to Coats.

As for Bates, several Republicans said after the Franklin College debate that if they didn't know the resumes of any of the candidates and had to choose simply based on what had been said earlier in the day, Bates would have attracted their support. He made a cogent case that his opponents have 50 years of political experi-



ence, he has none and it's time for a fresh face and a fresh perspective in Washington. But Bates' problem is similar to Stutzman's: he lacks the money to pound the message home. And Bates' lone TV wasn't nearly as impressive as Stutzman's. Bates is mostly anonymous and it's hard to envision him breaking out.

So we have the political volcano, with Pew Research pointing out that only 22 percent of Americans have much trust in their government. The Rasmussen Reports poll shows that only 28 percent of Hoosiers believe the health reforms will be good, and 58 percent say they will be bad. Some 65 percent favor repeal. Just 39 percent approve of President Obama's job performance.

But in the Franklin College/WFYI-TV debates, Coats' opponents did little to make a distinction and grab headlines. After both debates, the headlines were along the lines of "GOP Senate Candidates Largely Agree on Issues." The upstarts missed their best opportunities to go on the attack and make a case for a new generation of leadership.

And we have the ash cloud. We don't have a single credible snapshot of where this race stands. Inexplicably, Rasmussen Reports did head-to-heads with the GOP field against U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth (Coats 54-33 percent, Hostettler 50-33 percent, Stutzman 41-36 percent), but no head-to-heads in the primary field. The lone indicator on how the GOP race might be going is that Coats' support rose 5 percent against Ellsworth over the past month.

There were no head-to-head polls in the Republican primary. That probably was the biggest element leading to a perception that no one had forged a considerable lead. Given the general anger and the lack of other state primaries testing the anti-incumbency fervor, Indiana becomes one of the first petri dishes on that front. Coats is viewed as a virtual incumbent. A loss by Coats or U.S. Reps. Mark Souder (very unlikely) or Dan Burton (possible, but we have the race leaning his way) would lend considerable credibility to a potential throw all the bums out mentality.

But with the GOP Senate race, that became increasingly unlikely on Wednesday. ❖



Don Bates Jr. greets Franklin College student panelists. (HPI Photos by Steve Dickerson)

Soundbites from the GOP Senate debate

FRANKLIN, Ind. - Five candidates for the U.S. Senate Republican nomination debated top issues at Franklin College Monday. Below is a look at each candidate, in alphabetical order.

Don Bates Jr.: Part of the solution

Though he doesn't consider himself to be part of the problem, Don Bates Jr., pledged Monday to be part of the solution for America at a Republican primary debate held at Franklin College.

Despite the fact that Bates has not held a political office, he said he feels it's time to send someone who cares about Main St. to Congress.

"I believe it's past time we send someone to Washington who knows how to fix the fiscal disaster out-of-touch, career politicians have created," Bates said.

Bates, a financial adviser from Winchester, Ind., joins plumbing company owner Richard Behney, former U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, former U.S. Rep. John Hostettler and state Sen. Marlin Stutzman in the race for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate. The seat will be vacated by Sen. Evan Bayh, who has chosen not to seek reelection. Bates attacked the policies of President Barack Obama, which partly influenced him to enter the debate.



"Barack Obama has launched an unprecedented assault on the American dream and for the past 13 months, I've been running to stop him," Bates said.

Bates, and all the other candidates at the debate, vowed to repeal the health care reforms Obama signed into law last month.

"[Healthcare reform is] radical because it doesn't meet the needs that we're facing today, and that is an economic crisis that we need to address," he said.

Among the other topics candidates took up in the debate were the current wars in the Middle East, balancing the budget, the green energy sector and qualities they would look for in a Supreme Court nomination.

The major challenge Bates said the Republican Par-



ty would face would be uniting the party under one person. "We must nominate a candidate who can do the best job of bringing Tea Party leaders, Tea Party people and traditional Republicans together," Bates said. "I believe I can do that."

-- by Samm Quinn

Richard Behney: Tea Party pioneer

Feeling disenfranchised and let down by the Republican Party, Richard Behney said the Tea Party movement was a way for him and other like-minded citizens to show dissent.



Richard Behney is best known for popularizing the Tea Party movement in Indiana, and he said that group still believes in the American free market system.

"It's not a Republican or a Democrat thing," said Behney. "It's a freedom-loving thing. I feel like the [Republican] party has left me."

Behney also blasted Democrat Barack Obama for keeping healthcare as a hot button issue while the nation was torn by a failing economy. He said that a drastic change in

the recently passed bill was needed and that "healthcare in America is not a right."

He said that the American healthcare system was the best in the world, and many patients from foreign countries seek treatment here.

As solutions, he suggested more competition and letting individual states deal with issues such as the cost of malpractice insurance for doctors that has driven costs up. However, there were some costs he would not reduce. If anyone out there deserved "Cadillac healthcare," it is the families of men and women serving in the military, Behney said.

Going on to attack the spiraling national debt, Behney suggested that the government return to sound business practices such as those he has used to build a thriving plumbing business, the Atta Boy Plumbing Company.

"It's really a question of business 101 and common sense, which seems to be lacking greatly in D.C.," he said.

Behney said that first and foremost America must

stop spending. He suggested that energy reform would be a good place to start saving money, and advocated less U.S. dependence on foreign oil and using the nation's ample coal and oil resources.

While insisting America needs to defend its shores, he said that as a businessman, he favors befriending other countries and opening up the United States to more trade.

During a question-and-answer portion of the debate, an activist from Lebanon, Ind., posed a question on family life regarding the importance of children having divorce-free extended families. Behney said this was a value of his but that he was against having federal intrusion in people's lives.

"Hoosier families can take care of Hoosiers," he said.

In his closing statement Behney concluded that the economic times were grim, but there was hope.

"We are in very difficult times, and we are in a deep hole. We have tough decisions to make but we have done it before, we have hard work to do but we will get it done," said Behney.

--by Isaac Pollert

Dan Coats: Defend the constitution

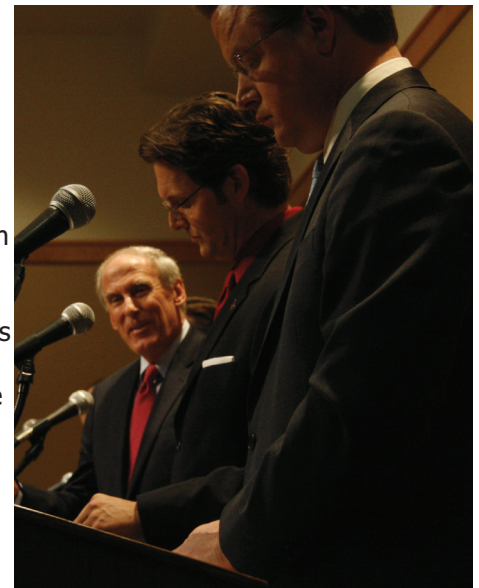
In his opening statement, former U.S. Sen. Dan Coats said he hoped to "address issues that directly affect" the youth in attendance at the Republican Senate Debate held at Franklin College Monday afternoon. A veteran politician, Coats is the oldest of the five candidates for the Republican nomination. Although he touted his record in the Senate, his opponents criticized his voting record.

Coats sidestepped a question about the involvement of two of his competitors in the American Tea Party. He said that it did not matter so much if voters were Republicans or Democrats, so long as they were engaged in the political process.

Another student panelist questioned Coats on healthcare reform.

"Do we believe health care has problems we need to address? Yes, we do!" said Coats.

He maintained that the government should have paid more





attention to health reforms in the 1990s, making sound decisions based on compromise rather than the sweeping changes passed by the Barack Obama administration.

Another debate questioner asked Coats what programs he would cut in order to balance the deficit. Coats said he would stop the fiscal bleeding and not start any new programs. He listed balancing the national debt as one of his campaign priorities.

Coats was asked next what type of nominee should fill Justice Paul Stevens seat in the Supreme Court. He responded with a criticism of Stevens. "We need justices who will defend the constitution, not rewrite the constitution."

In Coats' closing statement he stressed that his issues are the national debt, mass spending by government, and numerous international concerns.

-- by Jesselyn Bickley



John Hostettler talks with WTRV's Norm Cox following the Franklin College U.S. Senate debate on Monday. (HPI Photo by Steve Dickerson)

John Hostettler: A reluctant candidate

Former U.S. Rep. John Hostettler did not intend to run for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate, yet he found himself on the campaign trail debating with four other candidates at Franklin College Monday afternoon.

Hostettler said he decided to run after the 2008 election. "Our country is going in the wrong direction very fast, and we must do something in order to change that," Hostettler said.

Hostettler said that he was discouraged by the direction his own party was going until he was invited to a Tea Party event.

"My discouragement melted away when I saw about 200 people show up in the middle of the day...that were there willing to take time out of their busy schedules

and bring their children, in many cases, to talk about the issues," Hostettler said.

When asked about the recent healthcare reform, Hostettler said that healthcare was legislated by a Congress which has "gone beyond the constitutional boundaries set by the enumerated powers and others in the U.S. Constitution."

Hostettler said that purchasing health care needs to expand across state lines along with the creation of tax credits for 100 percent of health insurance and cost, instead of the proposed health care reform.

Hostettler said the \$1.6 trillion deficit is an "over-arching issue," and the country is passing on to the next generation a "crippling debt" that will be difficult to overcome. He said every program should be looked at when trying to balance the budget, but Hostettler did not support any cuts to the military program.

Addressing a question about the strategy for the Middle East, Hostettler said he supports full military removal from Iraq. When in Congress, he had been against the Iraq War from the outset.

Hostettler said that his primary campaign has spent more time getting to meet people, and he did not have an exact figure of what he has raised at the debate. He said that the campaign has been able to raise money, and that after the primary, the main focus will switch to fundraising.

-- by Suzannah Couch

Marlin Stutzman: Pro-life, pro-businesses

State Sen. Marlin Stutzman defined himself as a "pro-life, pro-business" farmer in Monday's U.S. Senate debate for the Republican nomination at Franklin College.

Stutzman said he was against government-run healthcare, and he would support repealing the bill.

"Is it even the federal government's responsibility to take over such a massive portion of our industry, health care system, and our economy?" he asked. "I think they're focusing on the wrong issue to begin with. Rather than insurance, they should be focusing on the cost of medicine."

Stutzman said the current healthcare system has problems that should be fixed instead of a full health care reform. He argued that the federal government has over-reached its boundaries on the healthcare bill.

Another thing Stutzman would like to see changed is the amount of spending in Washington.

"One thing I've learned as a small business owner is that you can't spend more money than you take in, and you can't borrow more money than you can afford. We can't give government more money to spend when they don't have a plan to pay it back," said Stutzman. "I think that we are a great example right here in Indiana where we went from a billion dollar deficit to a billion dollar struc-



tural surplus all without raising taxes.”

Stutzman said the federal government should model Indiana and pass a balanced budget amendment to prevent overspending.

“We cannot continue to spend on pet projects when our country, children and grandchildren are going to be facing massive amounts of debt. Even considering the spending bills like the farm bill and the stimulus package we have to stop spending,” Stutzman said.

Stutzman said he currently supports having troops in the Middle East. He says Iraq is much better off with-



out Saddam Hussein. Stutzman also supports Obama’s increase of troops in Afghanistan, and an American presence in the Middle East is important to allies like Israel.

In a news conference following the debate, Stutzman shared his views on immigration reform.

“I think first of all you secure the border and identify those who are here ille-

gally,” he said. “I think the hard part is going to be figuring out if you send them back to their country. I just can’t see us as a country doing a round them up and ship them out. I don’t think it’s the compassionate thing to do or the right thing to do. It would also be very expensive to the taxpayer.”

He also said that he wouldn’t support amnesty; the focus should be on stopping illegal immigration at the borders.

He finished with stating the importance of the upcoming elections.

“I believe that this is one of the most important elections that our country will face. It is up to us to stand forward and make a difference and I believe that I am best suited to do that with my experience as a small business owner, farmer, and a part-time state legislator,” Stutzman said.

-- by Savannah Raines



Heavy on name ID and cash, Bloody 9th gets ugly

By JULIE CROTHERS and BRIAN A. HOWEY

FRANKLIN - The 9th CD race has former congressman Mike Sodrel with 95 percent name ID and challenger Todd Young who has raised \$450,000.

The result is a homestretch with a lot of TV advertising and rumors tossed out by the warring campaigns.

Young raised \$456,142 with \$225,759 cash on hand at the end of the first quarter FEC reporting period. Sodrel raised \$194,729 and had \$109,000 on hand. A third candidate, Travis Hankins, reported \$181,000. Young has an extensive TV ad campaign underway and Hankins has hundreds of yard signs out.



There have been reports of defections in Sodrel’s campaign, including an instance where Sodrel’s wife, Keta, was upset that alcohol was served at a fundraiser. There were also reports that Sodrel’s campaign manager, Jeff Canada, left the campaign. However, when contacted by Howey Politics, Canada said he had been with the campaign since arriving in December. Canada said the information was not accurate and the campaign had not fired anyone, but rather had hired additional workers and moved others around to allow different people to work in the field.

Sodrel said the information given to HPI was false, and that he expects the same sort of rumors to be tossed into the mill as they grow closer to the primary. “We’re just trying our best to stick to the issues. We’re talking issues of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that haven’t been this important in a lifetime,” Sodrel said. “People may want to focus on the personalities and candidates, but right now we are just running as hard as we can run.”

Both Young’s and Sodrel’s campaign offices have had calls from voters concerning push polling by a New York company called Central Research that begins by asking telephone respondents a series of questions and then asks if a series of falsities would sway their vote. Among them, said Young’s Campaign Manager Ryan Burchfield, are statements about Young misrepresenting his military service and accusing him of campaign finance law violations.

Sodrel said he, too, has heard of the push polling but didn’t anticipate it would affect his campaign.

Young said despite the push polling, things are going great on his campaign as they divvy up remaining campaign funds to finish strong in the last two weeks. The



financial support was more than anticipated, he said, but he hopes picking up television advertisements and sending out mailers will push him ahead of his opponents in the coming weeks. "We're not saving anything," Young said this morning of his warchest. "We're going to exhaust it."

"You can have a great message and have all the support in the world, but as we tell people, if your microphone isn't big enough, you're just not going to win in this day and age," Young said. He said he began campaigning in the early part of 2009, which means he has now been at it for 16 months. The important part, he said, was to show people that there's a viable alternative to the same candidate they've been seeing for years. Young added this morning, "My sense is the numbers are moving, but it's a really hazy picture." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Sodrel

4th District: Buyer endorses Hershman

As 9th District Republican candidates continue to shape out the race in the southeast corner of the state, more than a dozen 4th District GOP candidates attempt to break away as the primary grows near.

Republican candidates Todd Rokita and Brandt Hershman seem to have pulled ahead in the polls, hoping to take the seat of Rep. Steve Buyer who will retire next year. Hershman, who has served as Buyer's district operations director since 1992, received Buyer's endorsement earlier this week. Hershman said he welcomes Buyer's "stamp of approval," but hopes that his ties to the community and leaders within the community will benefit him in the primaries.

"(Buyer's) approval is just a reflection of support that I've received from a variety of points. It's a matter of the relationships that have been built over time through the issues I've worked on for his behalf and on my own," Hershman said.

In a note on Hershman's facebook campaign site, Buyer states, "Brandt Hershman is the only candidate who has stood consistently with me to fight the Obama 'cap and trade' bill that will increase energy costs here in Indiana and take jobs away. He has helped me create an environment for economic expansion and job creation." Inexplicably, the Hershman campaign didn't put out a press release about the endorsement.

Hershman said he plans to remain competitive as the clock ticks down to the vote. "We are extremely competitive from a congressional standpoint and extremely competitive from a media standpoint," he said. "In terms of grassroots efforts, we're clearly winning."

Republican opponent Todd Rokita isn't backing down, however. In fact, said Campaign Manager Cam Savage, polls show Rokita with a significant lead. "At this point, we're not taking anything for granted. We don't want to leave any stone unturned," Savage said. Rokita plans to attend dozens of public forums and party functions in the

coming weeks, along with hitting the road and making calls to voters, said Savage. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Burton

5th District: Messer assails Burton ad

As campaigns across Indiana ramp up advertising leading to May 4, a television advertisement promoting Dan Burton has caused a stir in the 5th District. The ad, which first aired several weeks ago, includes paid actors from a talent agency in Columbus, Ohio, talking about why they would vote for Burton. Burton spokesman John Donnelly said the ad was one of seven that have aired and was "just to mix things up and get the same message out, but in a different way."

Opponent Luke Messer, whose wife researched the commercial and discovered its out-of-state stars, said he understands that in some ways it may seem ridiculous to point out the commercial's shady background, but in other ways it's just sad. "It really isn't a trivial matter. It's wrong to use paid actors, especially ones that aren't Hoosiers. After 28 years of leadership I wouldn't think you would have to pay someone to say nice things," Messer said. "What this really does is highlight how detached (Burton) is from the district and how much he's become part of the Washington culture. If he thinks this is OK, he's been in Washington too long." Messer, however, is still running his initial bio ad.

McGoff, who began airing a TV ad comparing Burton with an appendix organ, will be sending out mailers that hit mailboxes on Friday. The mailing is the first in a series that uses the same "characters" -- recycled lobbyists, career politicians and Party insiders -- in different situations. These mailings will distinguish McGoff's qualifications -- doctor, small business owner, Iraq war veteran and "soon to be" general in the Air National Guard -- compared to the other challengers.

Donnelly said Burton plans to release another ad this week that will air through the end of the campaign. "The congressman is not focused on the negative attacks; he's going to stay positive and stay focused on the issues," Donnelly said. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Burton

Indiana House races

HPI is tracking four Republican Indiana House primaries where there is a potential for an upset involving State Reps. Bill Ruppel, Jackie Clements, Dan Leonard, David Wolkins and Phyllis Pond.

Two of the most vulnerable appear to be Clements, who is being challenged by former legislator Heath Van Natter, and Ruppel, who is being challenged hard by Rebecca Kubacki. She is backed by the Indiana Chamber. Her husband, Mike, is president and CEO of Lake City Bank. She has been involved in a number of charities and volunteer organizations. Wolkins is being challenged by Winona Lake Clerk-Treasurer Retha Hicks. ❖



A township view of government consolidation

By CURT KOVENER

CROTHERSVILLE - Despite a stinking economy, a hostage holding stock market, unemployment idling nearly 1 in every 10 Hoosiers, and the majority of the population scared about their future but trying to put on a brave face, it seems all some elected leaders and their hired guns want to talk about is how much government consolidation will be the state's savior.

The Governor touts the findings of his appointed Kernan-Shepard Committee on how to improve Hoosier government. Kernan-Shepard was a flawed committee providing a jaundiced view of Hoosier life. Not a single member of Kernan-Shepard had any experience in town, county or township government.

They were mayors, former state legislative officials and representatives of big business. Every member of Kernan-Shepard resides in an urban big city. So I ask: What the hell do any of them know about life as we live it out here in the country? Visiting their weekend cabin in Brown County or on lake?

Wawasee doesn't qualify them to speak on living life out here in the sticks. You see in the big cities, they are used to mass transit so that folks living on the edges of the city who are in need of services can board a bus and be dropped off where ever they need to go. Alas, no buses serve the residents of Jackson, Scott or Washington Counties.

And the government consolidation pundits claim that much of the government services business can now be handled on-line. But unlike the metropolitan areas where residents can have a choice of high speed internet (a necessity) to do business with government on-line) only portions of rural Indiana have the needed high speed internet connection. Some folks living less than three miles from Crothersville and Austin are unable to get DSL and are still forced to use dial-up service, if that can be called technology by today standards.

And the big city proponents (they really get bent out of shape when they are called that because they know it's true and have no response other than to call us "backward ... status quo... and resistant to change") would have us believe that someone in the county seat knows better how to provide fire protection than on the local level.

A county wide fire protection service would be required to provide equal funding & services. Jackson, Washington and Redding Townships in Jackson County currently have their fire protection provided by residents paying dues to their respective departments. The more

"efficient" county-wide fire protection method would mean a property tax increase in those three townships even though lower property taxes is the main motivation behind government consolidation.

The needs of Crothersville and Vernon Township along the much traveled I-65 corridor are vastly different than the western county where hilly, curvy roads would prevent some large fire apparatus used in the eastern part of the county from navigating to a fire scene or medical emergency.

And remember that all county residents will not pay equally into the fire protection system. The City of Seymour - where about half of the entire county's assessed wealth is located - those residents, businesses and industries would not pay anything to fund county fire protection because the city has their own paid fire department.

Do you think that a county seat bureaucrat using only the currently available dollars will have your best interests at heart and be able to improve funding for all rural fire departments?

Should fire protection be determined by the county will some current fire stations be closed (a synonym for consolidation) for financial reasons? And should that happen, while we may save some in tax dollars, some will be greeted with increased insurance premiums for rural home and farm coverage since proximity to a fire department is a factor in the insurance premium equation.

I travel to the courthouses of Jackson and Scott County each week to gather the news. Should the consolidation effort succeed, I am not sure where the respective counties will place the needed offices to deal with residents concerns. Wouldn't it be "penny wise and pound foolish" if to save money by a consolidating government, that more government offices must be built, leased or purchased?

Recently the Indianapolis Star reported on the amount of surplus dollars township government had squirreled away. What wasn't included in the report is the amount of money being saved in cumulative (that means save it until you need to make a purchase) fire equipment accounts. It is much more damning if you can report how government taxes its residents while having piles of money in reserve. Besides, here in the country aren't we raised to save for a rainy day? Or would they want you to believe it is better to get a loan from the bank for operating funds and then pay the bank interest using tax dollars?

And speaking of the Indianapolis Star, if all of Indiana is to operate the same, do you really believe that the state's largest newspaper and the Crothersville Times have the same business model? There are differences; one size does not fit all. If the state's leader doesn't believe that I will be happy for our 5-foot-something governor to exchange suit coats with 6'7" me for the day.

The government model the big city folks have



developed may work quite well for urban, metropolitan areas. I don't live there and don't have much inkling of their needs and issues so it would be improper for me to offer suggestions. That is diametrically opposed to the urban based government consolidation proponents who haven't

done their homework for what works in non-urban areas.

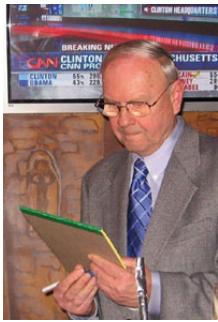
It seems the big city advocates just want to force it down our throats and tell us it's good for us. ❖

Kovener publishes the Crothersville Times and is Vernon Township trustee.

Beware of the government Census conspiracy!

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Beware. The Census is a government conspiracy. Filling out the form could lead to confinement in a concentration camp. Licking to seal the return envelope could let them use your DNA to frame you. And letting them pinpoint your address could bring targeting of your home by a Predator drone missile.



You don't see or hear warnings about this in the mainstream news media. We know why, don't we? But if you swim out of the mainstream, plunging into the stormy seas of conspiracy on the Internet, you will find these warnings and more. Much more. No wonder the return of Census forms is slow, snail-paced in parts of Texas,

where they take these threats more seriously than we sometimes do in Indiana.

Beware, Indiana. FEMA concentration camps have been established at Indiana sites, at a faux rail repair yard at Indianapolis and in Fort Wayne and near LaPorte. Foreign troops are there already, training to guard American patriots who will be imprisoned in the New World Order take-over.

And here you thought FEMA was just an agency created to bring misery to New Orleans hurricane survivors. Maybe Brownie really was doing a heck of a job, getting government priorities right, ignoring Katrina in order to concentrate on concentration camps.

Internet warnings don't pinpoint a South Bend concentration camp. Aren't you suspicious, however, about all that construction around Notre Dame? Something called a nanotechnology center. Yeah, right. And an Innovation Park. Innovation for concentration?

Did Barack Hussein Obama, he for whom there is no proof of birth, come to Notre Dame commencement last May to honor the graduates and Father Ted Hesburgh? Or, more likely, to plot with and honor the conspirators developing a nanoconcentration camp?

Beware. Even if no South Bend concentration camp is yet operational, law-abiding Americans from the area

could be sent on a forced march on the Toll Road toward LaPorte or Fort Wayne, herded by foreign troops hired by the foreign operators of the Toll Road.

Some of you will scoff at reports of concentration camps. But as renowned a journalist as Glenn Beck conducted a fair and balanced investigation of their existence and said: "I can't debunk them."

Later, under duress from critics of conspiracy truth, Beck did pull back from the claim. Luckily, he had already given widespread national publicity to the conspiracy.

Raising conspiracy theories raises ratings.

Raising conspiracy theories raises campaign funds.

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann of Minnesota raised bundles of campaign money by warning that the Census could be groundwork for concentration camps and declaring that she would not answer all the questions. Bachmann would not be intimidated by critics blabbering that she was encouraging people to violate the law.

Beware. Don't let intimidation force you to answer. Not when targeting your address, with Census workers using GPS devices, is part of the reported plan to place unobtrusive colored dots on our mailboxes. Why? To help the foreign troops rounding us up. A blue dot means you're off to a FEMA concentration camp. A pink dot means slave labor. Woe, if a red dot is affixed to your mailbox. You will be shot in the head. Or maybe a Predator missile, directed by those GPS settings, will visit your home.

Check your mailbox. Now.

There's more. Much more.

The Internal Revenue Service is hiring "16,500 thugs coming with their guns and putting you in jail." Or are they being hired to enforce socialistic health care? Doesn't matter. The IRS says it's not true. So it must be. And armed thugs from the government coming after you for any purpose probably will mean a concentration camp. Or enforcement of a red-dot directive.

The Census is unconstitutional.

Don't give me that stuff from Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3, about an enumeration every 10 years. That's unconstitutional. If you don't believe that the Constitution can be unconstitutional, just hit the Internet and learn the truth from conspiracy blogs. They'll tell you what you never would find in the so-called news media.

Still haven't mailed back your Census form? Beware. Or instead be a good citizen, one of those types, and send in your completed Census form. ❖



Is Dan Coats in trouble?

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - Dan Coats' campaign to reclaim his former U.S. Senate seat has been such a struggle you almost feel badly for him. What most observers assumed would be a slam-dunk primary election has turned into a slow bumpy ride.



Chris Sautter
Column

Is former Senator Dan Coats in danger of being denied the Republican nomination?

I put that question to a prominent Republican friend from Fort Wayne, who told me there was absolutely no enthusiasm for Coats in what is the heart of his old congressional district.

My friend - who supports the former Senator - predicts that Coats will win the primary, but adds somewhat ruefully that Coats' likely nomination will give Democrats a real shot in November. Another Hoosier Republican told me Coats might even fail to carry his former congressional district in northeast Indiana. Marlin Stutzman, a state Senator from LaGrange County in the northeast section of his district, is giving Coats a run in his old home territory, though a Coats loss there seems unlikely.

Why has Coats' campaign generated so little enthusiasm? There are several explanations, some more obvious than others.

First, Coats has a poor profile in a year when voters are angry with establishment Washington. His work as a lobbyist has become a flash point in the campaign. It has undercut his ability to construct a credible message that he will go to Washington and fight for the priorities of Hoosier Republican voters.

Secondly, Coats' voting record has caused problems for him in the primary. His vote for the Brady bill and for the confirmation of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, in particular, have created so much hostility that conservative blogs are boiling over with anti-Coats rhetoric.

Third, Coats never developed a solid grassroots statewide base. He made his way up the ladder by hanging on to Dan Quayle's shirt. When Quayle beat Birch Bayh, Coats - an aide to the Congressman - succeeded him. When Quayle became Vice President, Coats was appointed Senator. He then defeated an underfunded Baron Hill and an over-ambitious Joe Hogsett. There has been an impression among some that Dan Coats never quite earned the Senate seat, a feeling reinforced when he declined to run for re-election against the popular Evan Bayh.

Finally, more than a few Hoosier Republicans resent that Washington insiders recruited Coats to run. There was never any clamor in Indiana that Dan Coats come back and rescue the Republican Party from a weak field of candidates.

Even before Bayh bowed out-of-the-race, there was a sense of "who needs him?" among many Republicans.

In fact, many Democrats are rooting for Coats because the baggage that goes with being a lobbyist provides an easy target. In addition, the conservative Ellsworth could have an advantage over Coats with gun owners.

Coats' lackluster fundraising is a clear sign of his rustiness as a candidate. His inability to keep pace with expectations in fundraising and his inability to generate excitement underscores a feeling among some that his time has passed.

Even the Mike Pence endorsement could be interpreted as a sign of Coats' weakness. The last thing Pence, who has designs on higher office, needs is to put himself in the middle of a primary battle at home. Why else would he weigh-in unless Coats needed the endorsement? Washington Republicans pushed Pence to endorse Coats because they don't want to risk the chance of a John Hostettler nomination.

That Coats is still likely to prevail on May 4 in spite of these obstacles speaks to the weakness of the Republican field. Hostettler has raised an anemic \$37,000. Stutzman's statewide name recognition is so low and his fundraising so poor (\$125,000 raised) he will literally have to bet the farm to run a competitive television campaign.

Kevin Kellams, Coats' seasoned strategist and spokesman, exudes confidence. Hearing him tout a new radio endorsement ad by Dr. James Dobson and discuss the impact of the Pence endorsement, I get the feeling the Coats campaign believes they now have the nomination in hand. "Senator Coats is a conservative leader with a proven record of championing Hoosier values," Kellams intones in a telephone call. He dismisses talk of Coats' stumbles as mindless Beltway chatter. He is coy about the possibility of a Mike Pence ad in the final days of the campaign.

Coats is nothing if not resilient. One wonders why he would relinquish the easy life to go back to the Senate, a place Evan Bayh is leaving because of the lack of civility and inability to accomplish important things. Coats says he was called back to service to help steer his country in the right direction. If the Senate is a different place from the one he left in 1998, the world of politics is a different world. But if he survives the volatility of the 2010 campaign, no one can say didn't earn it. ❖

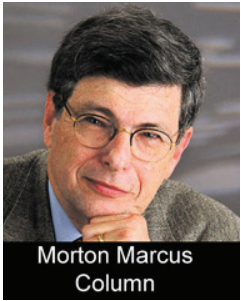


Privatization is not a substitute for competence

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS -In this age when most government leaders have little courage, they play games. Privatization is a popular political parlor game. Instead of providing thoughtful reasoning for consideration by an informed electorate, officials try to meet public needs through artfulness. Governor Daniels was very successful with his lease of the Indiana Toll Road. The road needed lots of modernization and massive expenditures were needed for highways throughout the state.

The governor knew the legislature did not want to raise tolls or taxes for these legitimate purposes. So he got the money by leasing the toll road and letting the private operator raise the tolls. With that lease money Major Moves was established. Now our highways statewide are in better shape and the toll road has seen major improvements. Tolls have increased only slightly (so far) and highway taxes have held steady.



Morton Marcus
Column

This success has provided an example for Indianapolis' mayor, Greg Ballard. He wants to avoid raising taxes and fees to fix the city's deteriorated water and sewer systems by transferring ownership to Citizens Gas, the local not-for-profit gas company. He wants also to privatize the city parking meters. What he cannot easily privatize, he wants to obliterate: two library branches. But when the chips are really down, Mayor Ballard seems willing to have the public sector take responsibility for Conseco Field House where the Pacers play a losing brand of professional basketball.

Some would call this flexibility. Different problems require different solutions. But the truth is that many of the problems are related to the inept and deceptive Indiana General Assembly which consistently and persistently wages fiscal war on local Hoosier governments.

The problems of Indianapolis are similar to those of Logansport and Madison, Goshen and Huntington. Property tax revenues have been cut to satisfy an anti-government clique by fearful legislators who cannot be honest with voters. Local governments, including schools and libraries, without the revenues to meet local needs. The recently imposed property tax caps were sought by Governor Daniels and flushed through the legislative colon by state senators and representatives seeking re-election.

But few local officials will speak up. Mayor Ballard does not tell the people of Indianapolis that his administration, and that of his predecessors, was spayed and neutered by the state government. He will admit that he does not have the staff or the money to do what needs to be done to restore the Indianapolis water and sewer systems. But why would it be better to have Citizens gas run these functions?

There are a few possible cost savings since gas, water and sewer lines run beneath the city streets. But Citizens has no special set of skills or knowledge to create major efficiencies in the operation of the water and sewer systems. What Citizens has is immunity from election when they raise rates.

The parking meters and their rates are a minor part of an inadequate commitment to public transit in Indianapolis. Mayor Ballard does not tell the electorate that neither he has nor did his predecessors (Democrat and Republican) have a working transportation plan for Marion County, despite years of repetitive work by blue ribbon committees and distinguished commissions. Now the approach has become regional which guarantees more delay and more discord because there is no public will to proceed.

Conseco Field House (like Lucas Oil Stadium) is a monument to the desire of Central Indiana to be taken seriously, to have a place of prominence among the nation's metro areas. The Pacers want \$15 million annually from the public sector to operate Conseco. Otherwise ... Farewell?

Perhaps there could be a public subscription to Pacer stock. But that would not work. Professional sports team are owned only (with the exception of the Green Bay Packers) by Captains of Capitalism who seek public assistance when the going gets tough. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, speaker, and writer formerly with IU's Kelley School of Business.



Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette: I reported last week that four of the five Republican Senate contenders and two northeast Indiana congressional candidates – one Democrat, one Republican – didn’t file the mandatory reports that lay out their personal assets. The reports were due April 4, a month before the May 4 primary. But 10 days later, only Senate candidate Marlin Stutzman and House candidate Phil Troyer had met the requirement. (Incumbent Rep. Mark Souder doesn’t have to file until May 15 because he’s a sitting lawmaker.) Dan Coats’ explanation: Bad advice from my attorney. John Hostettler: They didn’t send me any forms as they used to when I was in the House. Richard Behney: Hmm, didn’t know I had to do that. Don Bates: Forgot to mail it. Tom Hayhurst: Aides thought it was due May 15. Bob Thomas: I got an extension. Does it matter? Is being 10 days or even two weeks overdue really that big a deal? Yes, indeedy, it is. The reasons fall into two categories. The first is that if you are going to run for Congress, you really ought to read the rules and follow them. Not knowing is not good enough. The second is that blowing off the rules suggests contempt for even a minimum level of transparency. ❖

Mark Kiesling, Times of Northwest Indiana: Maybe Evan Bayh is just pulling our legs when he says he is puzzled by a federal decision not to send \$24 million to Gary to demolish dilapidated buildings. “The city is struggling,” Bayh said of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development decision. “These aren’t rich people. ... They’re folks who need a helping hand to make a go of it. If Bayh is talking about the average Joe or Jane who lives in Gary, he’s right. These are not people of means, by any means. But federal money does not go to Joe or Jane. It goes to the political administration that runs the city, and for the past 50 years or more there has been more than enough reason for even the most jaded Beltway bandit to wonder why more good money should be thrown after bad. All right, a lot of the city is a dump. It’s what happens when a city of 175,000 shrinks almost by half within three decades, and business and industry flee for the suburbs. Houses, factories, churches and schools stand abandoned, their broken windows making them look like eyeless beggars on a Third World street corner. You can trace a climate of corruption way back, even before Mayor George “Cha Cha” Chacharis went to prison in the early 1960s for tax evasion. The amount of money poured into Gary after Councilman Richard Hatcher was elected its first black mayor in 1967 would have sustained a small country, but all Gary ended up having to show for it was the Genesis Convention Center and the Hudson-Campbell Fitness

Center, neither of which is a likely candidate for the National Register of Historic Places -- unless you are counting the history of misspent millions That was in a more hopeful age, when people (at least those in Washington) thought we could win the war on poverty by writing a check. Maybe they thought the money would go for infrastructure, civic construction and environmental improvement, but they soon were proven wrong. Mayor Scott King spent \$45 million to build a \$25 million baseball field. Mayor Rudy Clay has left a legacy of a mayoral Hummer, a son working as a Gary Sanitary District photographer and a wife who is the official sealer of the county, a job many people believe could be done away with. No, the city has not had a history of spending its money well, and nothing I’ve seen convinces me there has been a revelation that an influx of more federal money would mean anything other than your tax dollars at work down a rathole. ❖



Rich James, Post-Tribune: When the Regional Development Authority was created five years ago, optimism about the economic future of Northwest Indiana was at a fever pitch. In what was a rare bipartisan move, U.S. Rep. Peter Visclosky teamed with Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels and area legislators, for the creation of the authority. Every NWI legislator voted for the RDA. “This is the key to us and the state for a new economic engine,” Visclosky said in May 2005. “This is real. We are not fooling around. People are going to begin seeing real projects coming out of this.” State Rep. Chester Dobis, one of the influential backers of the RDA, said, “This will mean billions (of dollars) in construction jobs and billions in new jobs. We are only limited by our imagination.” Valparaiso Republican Ed Charbonneau was executive director of the NWI Local Government Academy at the time of passage. Charbonneau, now a state senator, said in 2005, “Thoughts, discussions and actions are finally centering in bipartisan fashion on the concepts of cooperation and regionalism.” And the chairmen of Porter County’s two major political parties at the time, Democrat Leon West and Republican Chuck Williams, joined the celebration, saying, “Porter County has a rare opportunity to take advantage of the greatest economic engine to come to NWI in the last 100 years, and we cannot think of a better way for government to promote investment, create jobs and serve the needs of the people.” The RDA vowed to produce planes, trains, buses and development of the Lake Michigan shoreline. Five years later, some of the enthusiasm has waned. The lakefront park in Portage is the lone RDA project to be brought to fruition. “Of all the terms, I guess frustrated fits the best,” Dobis said about the progress of the RDA. ❖



Newman calls for Brizzi to resign

INDIANAPOLIS - Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi's predecessor and one-time mentor, Scott Newman, called on Brizzi to resign Wednesday, after the latest in a series of hits to the office's credibility (Murray, Indianapolis Star). A special prosecutor on Tuesday filed racketeering charges against a former investigator in Brizzi's office. Daniel R. Constantino is accused of aiding a scheme to sell stolen vehicles in exchange for sports tickets. Brizzi has faced heightened scrutiny over the past six months. Much of it has focused on his extensive business dealings and investments, and his intervention in several cases in which some think he has conflicts of interest. "I do feel that Carl Brizzi has been an effective prosecutor for much of the last seven years," Newman, a Republican who left office in 2002 after two terms, told The Indianapolis Star. "However, the thicket of ethical issues that have emerged in the last two years or so is so dense that it threatens everything he's achieved, first of all, and has shaken public confidence in the office. "His desire to vindicate himself . . . is much less important than the public's confidence in the office," Newman said. "And public confidence is a very fragile thing. I think the balance has tipped, and I do think Carl Brizzi should resign."



Daniels calls for 15% agency cuts

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels is ordering deeper cuts to the state budget (WRTV). In an e-mail sent to every state agency this week,

Budget Director Christopher Ruhl said the agencies will be expected to cut 15 percent from its spending for the fiscal year that starts July 1. "We have two options: continue to restrain spending or raise taxes on Hoosiers at a time when they can least afford government impounding more of their income. The choice is clear," the e-mail read. Agencies already cut 10 percent from spending in the current year.

Bennett pulls out of Race to Top

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Department of Education will not submit an application for the second round of "Race To The Top" federal education reform grants, the department announced today (Indianapolis Star). Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett said the department will not move forward after the state's largest teachers union, the Indiana State Teachers Association, would not agree to a list of terms and would not sit down for a last-ditch meeting to try to compromise. In a statement, Bennett said he still hopes the unions will work with him to implement proposals he had made as part of the applications for a piece of the \$4.4 billion pot of Race To The Top money. "Just as today's students have no time to waste, (the state) will waste no time as we continue our efforts to implement Indiana's Fast Forward plan without the federal funding," he said. "I am hopeful the unions will work with us throughout the implementation process, and I promise to make sure discussions ... are transparent to all stakeholders."

Coats lobby client list revealed

WASHINGTON - In his last months as a federal lobbyist, Senate candidate Dan Coats worked for clients who wanted the federal gov-

ernment to penalize China for its trade practices, set favorable regulations about the outdoor lighting it makes and provide money for training programs in Afghanistan, Palestine and Mongolia (Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Coats has not provided a list of the businesses or industries he lobbied for and has not revealed his income as a lobbyist. According to reports filed by King and Spalding, a large Washington lobbying firm, Coats' clients until he left the firm in February to run for the GOP nomination were: Cooper Industries, John Maneely Co., Festo Corp., Micron Technology, Towers and Watson, Southern Tier Cement Co., and Decision Sciences Corp.

Hill, Blue Dogs press Obama

WASHINGTON - Blue Dog House Democrats are urging the White House fiscal commission to go further than its deficit-cutting goal. "The fiscal commission's five-year goal of getting the federal deficit to 3 percent of GDP is an essential first step... but even more important will be addressing the long-term structural deficits that threaten to bankrupt this country," Blue Dog leaders wrote in a letter to the co-chairmen of the White House commission. President Barack Obama is asking the bipartisan commission to produce a plan that reduces a deficit expected to be about 10 percent of gross domestic product down to 3 percent by 2015. Blue Dogs said they shared that goal, but they also want deficits eliminated in 10 years. In their letter, the Blue Dog leaders acknowledged that the commission's work would be "extraordinary difficult." Obama wants the panel to produce a final report with policy recommendations in December. The recommendations must have approval of 14 of the commission's 18 members to make it in the final report, which Democratic leaders in Congress have



pledged to bring up for floor votes. Six of the members are GOP lawmakers, six are Democratic members and six are selections by Obama. The group is expected to consider changes to tax, spending and entitlement policies as they try to find savings. The Blue Dogs who signed the letter were Reps. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-S.D.), Baron Hill (D-Ind.), Jim Matheson (D-Utah) and Heath Shuler (D-N.C.). They urged the White House panel to "engage the public," partly by having C-SPAN broadcast parts of its meetings. They also called on the panel's members to "consider all options" and "set politics aside" in trying to come up with a fiscal plan.

Zoeller files suit vs. FD treasurer

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana

Attorney General Greg Zoeller filed a lawsuit against the former treasurer of a volunteer fire department, demanding repayment of more than \$86,000 that the official allegedly misspent on alcohol, jewelry, video-game equipment and other unauthorized expenses. "Hoosiers are indebted to the courageous work of those who serve in our volunteer fire departments and protect our lives and property. So when one individual pilfers funds intended for fire protection and pockets them for his own selfish use, then the entire community ought to be offended. This embezzlement was a shameless display of greed for someone who worked among such brave men and women," Zoeller said. Zoeller today filed a lawsuit seeking recovery of public funds against Donald W. Gambrel, former treasurer of the Kingsford-Union Volunteer Fire Department, demanding repayment of \$86,860.18 in tax dollars that a state audit found Gambrel had misused. The Attorney General's lawsuit, filed in LaPorte County Circuit Court, also seeks a preliminary injunction and temporary

restraining order to prevent Gambrel from disposing of or selling any assets that might be needed later to reimburse taxpayers. Gambrel, a resident of Kingsford Heights, Ind., was treasurer of the volunteer fire department from January 1, 2002, to January 13, 2009. At the request of the fire department's board, the State Board of Accounts (SBoA) performed an audit of the department's finances and discovered numerous instances of misappropriated funds during Gambrel's tenure as treasurer over seven years. Continental Western Insurance Group wrote the surety bond on Gambrel – in essence, an insurance policy against employee theft – and is also named in the Attorney General's lawsuit. Similar to submitting an insurance claim, the lawsuit seeks \$78,577.30 from the insurance company, the total amount of the bonds written on Gambrel over seven years, plus costs of the audit. Today's lawsuit is the latest effort by Zoeller's office to crack down on public employee embezzlement in local government units and collect repayments from the individuals responsible. On January 26, a Madison County court ordered default judgments totaling more than \$1.28 million against three former town officials of Chesterfield, Ind., who were accused of participating in a scheme that embezzled more than \$259,000 in town funds – one-quarter of the town's entire treasury. "Every local official who handles tax dollars in Indiana should understand by now that they will face serious legal and financial consequences if they misuse public funds and violate the public's trust," Zoeller said.

Ellsworth lays out finance reform

WASHINGTON - As the Senate debates how to reform our financial system, prevent another taxpayer funded bailout and protect consumers; U.S. Rep. Ellsworth released a

list of reform principles the final bill needed to contain to win support. The House already passed The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009 in December. Ellsworth said, "The financial crisis exposed significant loopholes in the rules governing Wall Street and the entire financial industry. The collapse taught us that the system was built on unsustainable leverage, irresponsible risk taking, shortsighted profit incentives, and a lack of accountability. All involved, from the lenders, to borrowers, to those responsible for oversight bear some blame for the crisis. That's why it is absolutely essential for Congress to develop a comprehensive plan to modernize our overly complex and outdated regulatory system." Five Key Principles for Reform: 1) End Taxpayer Bailouts & Hold Wall Street Accountable: If a big bank or institution fails, the federal government would break it up, sell off its assets to investors and companies and protect taxpayers by requiring Wall Street to pay the bill. 2) Eliminate Unfair and Deceptive Practices: Institute strong protections to prevent big banks who made billions selling investors a product they knew would fail and then bet on that failure. 3) Streamline Enforcement of Consumer Protections: Consolidate consumer protection agencies into a single regulator to make government more efficient and eliminate the ability of bad actors to hide between the cracks of a fractured regulatory system. 4) Increase Transparency for "Shadow Banks": Companies that don't fit the traditional definition of a bank have avoided scrutiny and led us into the financial crisis. Reform must bring transparency to the unregulated and secretive derivative business and other shadow banking practices. 5) Protect Responsible Banks & Credit Unions: Ensure local community lenders aren't lumped in with the Wall Street banks.