



Souder's stunning exit is more upheaval

Half of Indiana's CD delegation could change in '10

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY,**

INDIANAPOLIS - On the brink of another "tsunami" election this November, the last of the 1994 "wave" class - U.S. Rep. Mark Souder - ignominiously resigned on Tuesday, admitting he had an extra-marital affair with a staffer. Republican sources tell HPI that an incident report by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources naming Souder may have ignited what will likely be a bizarre chain of events, though the DNR denies such a report exists.

Souder was swept into office in November 1994 as part of the Gingrich Revolution. He defeated U.S. Rep. Jill Long on the same night that Republican John Hostettler upset U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey. And in the open seat vacated by U.S. Rep. Phil Sharp, David McIntosh completed the GOP's sweep of three contested Democratic seats by defeating Secretary of State Joe Hogsett.

McIntosh left Congress after six years, making an unsuccessful challenge to Gov. Frank O'Bannon in 2000.



U.S. Rep. Mark Souder's affair with part-time staffer Tracy Jackson led to his stunning exit. (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette photo by Frank Gray)



Hostettler was defeated by 22 percent in 2006 by Democrat Brad Ellsworth at the height of the dissatisfaction over the U.S. war in Iraq. And now there is Souder's stunning resignation - the third such event this year that has rocked the Indiana congressional delegation.

"I am so ashamed to have hurt those I love," a tearful Souder said at a press conference in Fort Wayne "I am so sorry to have let so many friends down, people who have fought so hard for me."

In late April, an angst-ridden Souder told Howey Politics Indiana that he was concerned about his own

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Will Daniels play politics?

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - Gov. Mitch Daniels is considering delaying until November an election in Indiana's 3rd Congressional District to replace Mark Souder, who is resigning from Congress after acknowledging he was having an affair with a staff member. Daniels and many Republicans want to avoid a low turnout special election that would give Democrats a better chance of winning the district.



Chris Sautter
Column

By scheduling the special and general elections on the same day, Daniels can claim he is saving taxpayers money while giving Republicans their best chance at holding the



"This is complicated and unprecedented. We want to make sure we understand the laws and rules first."

- Gov. Mitch Daniels, on a 3rd CD special election



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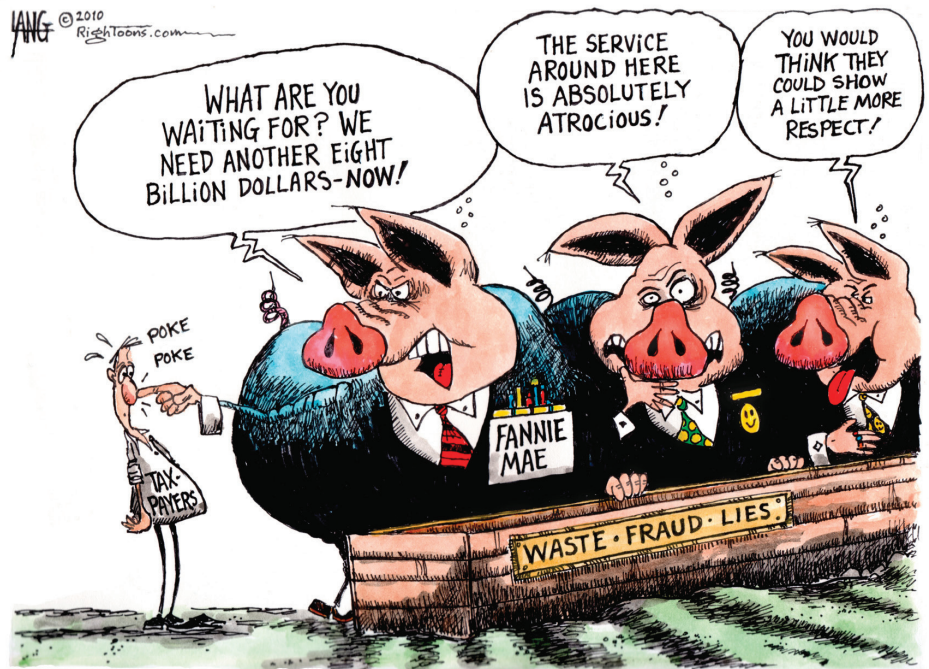
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seat.

Indiana law gives the governor considerable leeway as to when to call a special election. Tuesday, after Souder announced his resignation, Daniels publicly claimed that the matter "is complicated and unprecedented," although a special election was held in virtually the same congressional district — then the 4th — in 1989 after incumbent Dan Coats resigned to accept an appointment to the U.S. Senate from retiring Gov. Bob Orr. Daniels himself scheduled a special election in the 7th district just two years ago, in March 2008, following the death of Congresswoman Julia Carson.

The only conceivable complication is political. How do Republicans avoid an upset like the stunning loss they experienced in 1989 to replace Coats? Democrat Jill Long embarrassed Republicans when she won the special election for the seat that had once been held by then-Vice President Dan Quayle. After she won, Republican National Chairman Lee Atwater admitted to The New York Times he was "ashamed we lost."

While Daniels would prefer to

hold the contest in November, waiting more than five months to hold a special election would undoubtedly generate criticism for leaving district voters unnecessarily unrepresented and further put on the defensive a party already having to explain the actions of the disgraced Souder.

In any event, Republicans believe they need as much distance as possible from the Souder scandal to prevent a Democratic upset. They are also confident the national climate and voter turnout in November will put them in a much stronger position to hold the seat. Further, state and national Democrats are much more likely to target the seat for a special election held over the summer. There are too many seats in jeopardy for them to invest resources in the race in November—unless it is to protect a Democratic incumbent elected in a special election just weeks before.

Some have said the solidly Republican district is next to impossible for a Democrat to win under any circumstances, much less in a year that is likely to favor the GOP. But Democrat Jill Long's upset victory in the 1989 special election — on the



heels of the Bush/Quayle victory nationally just a few short months before -- is proof enough that a Democrat can win in an open seat race.

Long won the 1989 race due to a combination of factors, some of which might be present again this year. First, Long began the race with strong name recognition and a campaign that was already up-and-running. She had been the Democratic nominee in the 1988 against Dan Coats and she was the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate in Indiana in 1986. The lame duck Orr scheduled the 1989 special election for March 28 — more than three months after Coats' resignation — in an attempt to give Republicans time to erase Long's organizational advantage. But, as it turned out, it still wasn't time enough.

Secondly, Republicans failed to nominate their strongest candidate, Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke. Helmke likely would have won the 1989 race against Long. But he had only been elected mayor in 1987 and decided he owed Fort Wayne voters at least one full term as mayor. Instead, Republicans nominated a Helmke aide, Dan Heath. Heath was not only lacking in name recognition, but he needed to create a congressional campaign from scratch in a race that was a three-month sprint.

Finally, Long ran a better, more aggressive campaign. Long forced Heath to defend unpopular taxes imposed by Helmke and the Orr administration for whom he had previously worked. Helmke was a natural politician and could have better deflected Long's attacks. But the dour looking Heath was no match for the more politically agile Long. Long came across as the girl-next-door to Heath the professional political operator. And, her campaign was more energized and better able to turn out a greater percentage of Democrats in a low turnout election.

Like Long in 1989, Democrat Tom Hayhurst—who won the May 4 Democratic primary —starts out with district-wide name recognition. Hayhurst ran a surprisingly strong race against Souder in 2006 and his 2010 campaign has been up-and-running for months. Hayhurst has a good

personal story and the campaign experience to be every bit as good a candidate as Jill Long was in 1989.

Whomever Republicans choose, there will be disappointment within their ranks. State Sen. Marlin Stutzman, who ran second to Dan Coats with 29 percent in the U.S. Senate primary, would begin the race with enhanced name recognition and fresh from his strong showing just weeks ago.

State Rep. Randy Borrer, said to be one of Mitch Daniels' favorite legislators, announced he will run. But state legislators frequently have difficulty making the jump to congressional campaigns. They rarely have the experience or discipline to raise the kind of money or engage in the back-and-forth that is routine in congressional races. There is simply not enough time in a short special election campaign for most inexperienced candidates to learn the ropes.

Car dealer Bob Thomas, who garnered 34 percent against Souder in the primary, believes he has earned it. But precinct officials will select the nominee in a process that would seem to preclude outsiders like Thomas who doesn't live in the district, or Paul Helmke and former 2nd district Congressman Chris Chocola who now work in Washington, DC. Coincidentally, it is also the same process national Republicans lambasted after Democrats won a special election last year in New York 's 23rd congressional district.

Democrats have a reasonable shot to win a 3rd District special election if it is held any time except Nov. 2. It remains to be seen whether Governor Daniels will do the right thing by 3rd district voters rather than play politics to protect a Republican seat. ❖

Chris Sautter along with David Axelrod served as Jill Long's media consultants in the 1989 special election for Indiana's 4th Congressional seat.

Souder resigns, from page 1

mortality, the tough reelection battles he had fought over the past two cycles, and suggested this would be his last term. Souder told HPI that he was "miserable" about the campaign against self-financed auto dealer Bob Thomas, though he expected to win. He added that he had pondered retiring after the upcoming term and added, "This just sealed it."

Souder said, "But at this point I like what I'm doing, but at some point you go, OK. I'm going to see. Let me be honest with you, one of the big factors was my dad and

and his brothers all died between 55 and 60 of heart attacks. My mom's dad died at age 45. And the combination that I'm a conservative with this administration it's been much more upsetting here. I've had two tough generals in a row, although this one should be better even though (Dr. Tom) Hayhurst has more money than me. I've had these nasty elections and I've got grandkids six houses away who I hardly see. Nathan is having one in Colorado this summer and you kind of go, 'I'm not enjoying them'. If I can defeat Hayhurst this year. We have a bench."

The Souder campaign tried to backtrack on those statements in the ensuing hours, but did not press on after HPI revealed a taped transcript of much of the conversa-



tion that bore out his conflicted state of mind. There was nothing, however, to suggest the evangelical Christian was having an extra-marital affair.

At Tuesday's press conference, Souder appeared without his wife. Again, this time tearfully, Souder said his life in Congress had taken a toll on his family.

"In the poisonous environment of Washington, D.C., any personal failing is seized upon, often twisted, for political gain," Souder said. "I am resigning rather than to put my family through that painful, drawn-out process." He said his wife, Diane, and children "were more than willing to stand here with me. We are a committed family. But the error is mine, and I should bear the responsibility. As I leave public office, my plans are focused upon repairing my marriage, earning back the trust of my family and my community, and renewing my walk with the Lord,"

He told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette in an e-mail, "I feel just awful. It is a nightmare. Can't believe it is happening. But it is best for Diane and I, who love each other and have a firm foundation to build upon."

In an e-mail to HPI, Souder disputed a Washington Post story that suggested "trysts" at a Robinson Lake boat ramp in Whitley County. "The Wash Post has key facts wrong on timing, process, confrontations, etc.," Souder explained. "Most of them, actually. But it did evolve from my original intention to just resign from the nomination to resigning from Congress. Renee Howell, my chief of staff, did play a key role along with leadership in establishing how painful the process would be. No one ever had any proven evidence for a story, and the rumors were wild and mostly wrong." Souder added that he was "sick of the pressure. The national media was less effective and didn't come up with anything the local media didn't."

Souder added, "There is a story behind who was applying the constant trafficking in the story. Not sure exactly what story, but it is clearly a mixture of revenge and opportunism."

His resignation marks the third time this year that a Hoosier Member of Congress announced he would not continue his career. All are family related. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer announced he would not seek reelection in January

due to a life-threatening situation facing his wife. On Feb. 15, U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh stunned the political world saying he would not seek a third term, in part because of the partisan nature of Washington politics. But many observers believe his wife, Susan, would be an issue in a reelection bid due to her income from serving on the WellPoint board of directors and other medical and insurance companies.

Member turnover

Souder's stunning resignation means at least three current Members won't return. Three others might not survive November. They are U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth, who is running for Bayh's Senate seat; U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, who is in an intense reelection bid against Republican Todd Young; and U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, facing a tough battle against State Rep. Jackie Walorski. In a worst case scenario for Democrats, if Ellsworth, Hill and Donnelly lose that would represent a turnover of more than half of the 11-member Indiana delegation.

Two other members are also coming off of tough years, with U.S. Rep. Dan Burton winning his primary with just 30 percent of the vote, while U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky was cleared of ethics allegations by the House Ethics Committee.

Gov. Mitch Daniels will set a special election for Souder's replacement, sources tell HPI, and a leading contender will almost certainly be State Sen. Marlin

Stutzman, who lost to Dan Coats by 10 percent in the May 4 Senate primary, as well as State Reps. Randy Borrer, Matt Bell, and Fort Wayne Councilwoman Liz Brown.

Indiana Republican Chairman Murray Clark will set two caucuses - one to choose a replacement for a special election and another to fill the nomination for the fall. Democrat nominee Tom Hayhurst is expected to be the Democratic nominee for both. In the April HPI interview, Souder referred to Stutzman, State Rep. Matt Bell and Whitley County Republican chairman and state senate nominee Jim Banks as up and comers. Another potential candidate would be Fort Wayne Councilman Mitch Harper, who considered seeking the congressional seat in 1994.

In the April HPI interview, Souder talked about the GOP's "deep bench."

"I think we need a congressman in a manufacturing and industrial district like ours, a swing district, we



In a scenario no one would have believed in January, there is a chance none of these Hoosier Democrats - Evan Bayh, Baron Hill, Brad Ellsworth and Joe Donnelly will be in Washington if the worst case scenario comes true in November. (HPI Photo by Mark Schoeff Jr.)



State Sen. Marlin Stutzman (left) is taking a look at the open 3rd CD seat, but he will have to consolidate support in Fort Wayne as State Rep. Randy Borrer takes a look at the race. Stutzman is shown here at the Franklin College Senate debate in April. (HPI Photo by Steve Dickerson)

need a congressman who can build seniority for 15 or 20 years," Souder said.

As for Thomas, Souder explained, "This is about, increasingly, consulting firms and self-funders who have the arrogance to think they can drop in on a market like ours with anybody who's got money; NRCC has been looking at two or three guys who can spend two or three million dollars to buy a seat. I am angry about it. I am angry about it at the national level and the local level. It isn't that it's wrong have some wealthy people in Congress, in fact it's helpful to have some for party fundraising. But most of them have stayed in their communities and invested there. To have somebody wander in and drop a bunch of bucks on us and the people buying it, what does it say for the future? There won't be any Marlin Stutzmans or Jim Banks or Matt Bells in the future unless we fight this off."

Stutzman enters this sequence perhaps in the best shape. He finished with 29 percent of the vote in the U.S. Senate race and carried the 3rd CD even though it was the former district of Coats. He is a former district director for Souder.

Stutzman weighs run

Stutzman said in a statement on Tuesday, "I am deeply saddened by the announcement today by Congressman Mark Souder. Our thoughts and prayers will be with the Souder family and all of those affected by this sad situation. Our campaign has been contacted by numerous

people and media sources about our intentions concerning the vacancy that Congressman Souder's resignation creates. We will be making an official statement regarding our decision on this situation in the next few days."

Senate President Pro Tempore David Long was contacted by a number of Republicans about a run. But Senate Majority spokesman Scott Minier told HPI, "As the Eight Ball says, 'All signs point to no.'"

Minier added, "Maybe at another time in his life, but right now he's very protective of his family time, engaged in his private-sector legal work and focused on keeping Indiana fiscally sound and competitive coming out of the national recession."

Campaign spokesman Nate Bullock told the Associated Press that Bob Thomas' campaign is now working to reconnect with voters. "We just poured our heart and soul into this election — there's no question that we're going to keep going," Bullock said.

Souder's resignation could also be a problem. There will be a special election and Democrats will certainly nominate former Fort Wayne Councilman Tom Hayhurst. In 1989, when Coats resigned the seat to take Vice President Dan Quayle's Senate seat, Jill Long upset Republican Dan Heath in that special election.

Hayhurst with a war chest of more than \$200,000 will have a money edge on any GOP nominee. And while much of the anti-incumbency and Tea Party rhetoric has been aimed at Democrats, poll after poll show the Republican congressional approval rate in the 30th percentile. ❖



Indiana CD delegation could see more than half member turnover

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FRANKLIN - With the official nomination of Brad Ellsworth for the U.S. Senate, the Republican and Democratic field appeared to have been set for the 2010 mid-term elections until U.S. Rep. Mark Souder's stunning resignation on Tuesday. Howey Politics Indiana is forecasting that three House seats - the 2nd, 8th, and 9th - and



possibly the Senate race will be in play in October and November. All of these seats are held by Democrats and in a worst case scenario for that party, if the GOP can stage a sweep, it would be a reversal from 2006 when the

three House seats flipped the other way.

The 3rd CD bears watching now that it is open and there will likely be a short 60- to 80-day sprint to a special election with Democrat Tom Hayhurst holding a big money advantage. He is also in a position to cash in on the anti-incumbent sentiments battling around Indiana and Washington.

Polling this winter and spring has revealed deep suspicions for incumbents and estimates of losses for President Obama's Democrats have ranged anywhere from a typical 25 seats in the Rothenberg Political Report to up to 100 by Sean Trende of Real Clear Politics. There were several 125- and 90-seat swings in the U.S. House late in the 19th Century as the Founding Fathers designed it to do.

Polling bears out deep dissatisfaction. The Real Clear Politics composite on congressional job approval stands at 22.3 percent approval and 70.9 percent disapprove, with a CBS/New York Times poll on April 5-12 put-

ting the numbers at a historic low - 17/73 percent.

The RCP generic congressional vote stands at a 42.5 percent for Republicans and 42.3 percent for Democrats, most recently tied at 46 percent by Gallup (May 3-8) and a 45-40 favoring Democrats in a May 7-11 Associated Press/Gfk Poll. An ABC/Washington Post poll on April 22-25 had Democrats up 48-43 percent while a May 3-8 Rasmussen Reports Poll had the Republicans with a 44/38 percent advantage. So the generic polls have been all over the map.

Neither party is in particularly good standing. The AP/Gfk poll had approval/disapproval for Congressional Republicans at 31/65 percent and 37/61 percent for Democrats.

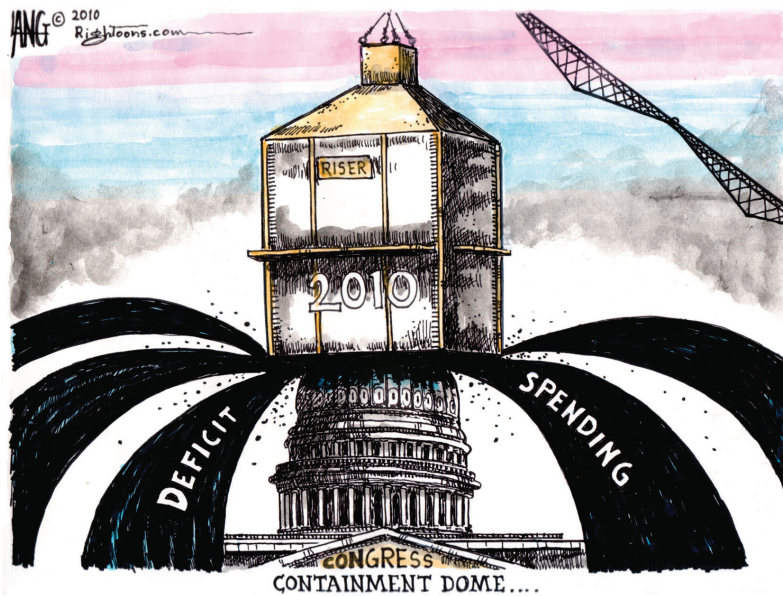
What has been consistent are the right/wrong track numbers. The RCP average is 34.7 percent right direction and 57.6 percent wrong track, or a -22.9 spread. Only the Research2000/Daily Kos Poll of May 10-13 had the right track in the 40th percentile (43/54 percent). All the other spreads ranged from -34 to -20.

So the people are pissed.

Many believe that President Obama's first mid-term will be a referendum on his brief tenure. The RCP composite has 48.4 percent approving and 45.9 percent disapproving, or a +2.5 percent spread. It has been as low as 46/53 percent in the May 14-16 Rasmussen Reports poll and as high as 62/43 percent in a May 6-9 Ipsos/McClatchy Poll.

But, as in past election cycles, people are irked, but not necessarily at their own guy. Souder survived an intense challenge from auto dealer Bob Thomas by 15 percent in the May primary. But U.S. Rep. Dan Burton was renominated with just 30 percent of the vote against six challengers in the 5th CD. Many believe if the challenger field had been one or two candidates, he would have been defeated.

Former congressional members Dan Coats (39 percent) and John Hostetler (20 percent) in the Republican U.S. Senate race and Mike Sodrel in the 9th CD (30 percent) failed to post robust numbers.





With Souder's shocking fall from grace just days after being renominated, and the hypocritical nature of his fall the question is whether that will incite further misgivings of incumbents with Hoosier voters, even those in other parts of the state.

The most immediate comparison was in 1994 when President Bill Clinton had been in office for two years, and failed at health reform and signed assault weapon ban legislation. That year Republicans took 49.9 percent of the vote (compared to 44 percent for the Democrats) and picked up 54 House seats. Losing Indiana Democrat incumbents were Frank McCloskey, who lost to Hostettler 52.4 to 47.6 percent; Jill Long, who lost to Souder 55.4 to 44.6 percent; and David McIntosh, who claimed the open Phil Sharp seat by defeating Secretary of State Joe Hogsett 54.5 percent to 45.5 percent.

But the Congressional generics trended toward the Democrats in the final week and none of the margins were larger than 11 points (ABC 47-46 in favor of the Democrats; Gallup 51-44 percent for Republicans; NBC 46-35 percent for Republicans; and Times Mirror 48-43 percent for Republicans).

Sean Trende asked in an April 14 analysis for Real Clear Politics, "How bad could 2010 get for the Democrats?" His answer will have them shuddering.

"Let me say upfront that I tend to agree with analysts who argue that if we move into a 'V'-shaped recovery and President Obama's job approval improves, Democratic losses could be limited to 20 or 25 seats," said Trende. "That said, I think those who suggest that the House is barely in play, or that we are a long way from a 1994-style scenario, are missing the mark. A 1994-style scenario is probably the most likely outcome at this point. Moreover, it is well within the realm of possibility - not merely a far-fetched scenario - that Democratic losses could climb into the 80- or 90-seat range. The Democrats are sailing into a perfect storm of factors influencing a midterm election, and if the situation declines for them in the ensuing months, I wouldn't be shocked to see Democratic losses eclipse 100 seats. Many of these polls survey registered voters. Polling among likely voters, such as Rasmussen Reports, shows Republicans up by about 8-10 points, which would probably represent a 70-seat pickup."

But the GOP failed to win the special election for the late U.S. Rep. John Murtha's Pennsylvania House seat. Politico reported: "All the evidence pointing to monster Republican House gains this fall—the Scott Brown upset win in Massachusetts, the scary polling numbers in once-safely Democratic districts,

the ever-rising number of Democratic seats thought to be in jeopardy—was contradicted Tuesday. In the only House race that really mattered to both parties—the special election to replace the late Democratic Rep. John Murtha in Pennsylvania's 12th District—Republicans failed spectacularly, losing on a level playing field where, in this favorable environment, they should have run roughshod over the opposition."

If the Trende kind of scenario is born out, not only do U.S. Reps. Baron Hill and Joe Donnelly likely go down (as well as Ellsworth in the Senate race and State Rep. Trent Van Haaften in the open 8th), but you'd start to see U.S. Rep. Andre Carson get nervous. And with the Greek crisis now spreading across Europe and possibly the United States, there is a chance the "V" recovery could become a "W" and that would be a disaster for Obama and the Democrats, who must have some economic glad tidings coming late this summer and into the fall.

"Consider that Democrats typically lead in the generic ballot, even if they do not gain control of Congress," Trende observes. "In 2004, for example, Democrats led Republicans in 63 out of 72 generic ballot tests taken that year. Yet Republicans picked up a handful of seats in 2004 and won the popular vote by three points."

In Trende's view, Obama and the Democrats are losing the "Jacksonian" wing of the party, the inter-Mountain West, and swing states, leaving Democrats with minorities, young and liberal voters. Even with this scenario, Democrats still lost Ted Kennedy's Senate seat in Massachusetts.

"The problem for the Democrats is that these



U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth talks to the press at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield on Saturday. (HPI Photo by Steve Dickerson)



voters are packed into a relatively few states and congressional districts nationwide, diluting their vote share," Trende said. "This is why the median congressional district is an R+2 district. Thus, the President could have a relatively healthy overall approval rating, but still be fairly unpopular in swing states and districts."

And one thing is clear: if the Democrats are packed into just a few states, despite President Obama's 2008 victory here, in 2010 Indiana is not one of them.

U.S. Senate: Dan Coats vs. U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth

2004 Results: Evan Bayh 1,496,976, Scott 903,913, Barger 27,344. **1998 Results:** Bayh 1,012,244, Helmke 552,732, SInk-Burris 23,641.

2010 Outlook: Coats has a 51-36 percent lead over Ellsworth in a May 5-6 Rasmussen Reports Poll, while President Obama's approval rating stands at 43/58 percent and 59 percent favor the repeal of the health reforms he signed in March after Ellsworth voted yea. So at this point, this is Coats' election to lose.

Coming out of the primary gate with only 39 percent of the vote, Coats did what he was supposed to do. He crisscrossed the state, appearing in Ellsworth's hometown of Evansville the day after the primary. Then he held events in Indianapolis (with his four primary opponents), Fort Wayne, South Bend, Hobart and Lafayette. The Coats campaign decided not to use negative tactics against the primary field for the sake of party unity. "We kept the focus on the goal - and the goal was to replace an enabling Democrat senator - enabling this liberal agenda that's taking place in Washington led by our president, led by Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid," Coats said at state Republican headquarters with the primary field at his side. "The goal was to replace that with someone that could go to Washington and represent the voice of Hoosiers. Standing up against this federal takeover - this liberal leftist agenda that I believe even a lot of Democrats can't support."

Ellsworth, meanwhile, appears to be trying to distance himself from his vote for the health reforms. Indiana Republicans and several bloggers noted that Ellsworth's congressional website removed statements he made after the health reform vote in March. Hendricks County Republican Chairman Mike O'Brien responded to Ellsworth's first campaign stop post-nomination in Plainfield at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. "The former Vanderburgh County sheriff has spent this campaign running away from his liberal record in Congress and has decided that the only path to political victory is for him to hide behind his badge," O'Brien said. "If you visit Congressman Ellsworth's website



U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth tours the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield last Saturday shortly after he won the Democratic nomination. He accentuated his sheriff roots. (HPI Photo by Steve Dickerson)

for his U.S. Senate campaign, there is literally no reference to the congressman's time in Washington and certainly no report on his record. The banner on the site's main page is an image of Congressman Ellsworth leaning against a Sheriff's Department cruiser."

Ellsworth said on Saturday, "It makes me who I am. When you spend almost half your life doing something, it's in your blood. It's in your brain. It's what makes you who you are. So, when I show myself standing next to a squad car, I show you that because it made me who I am." Ellsworth added, "If you think about your local sheriff's department or your local police department and what they stand for, that when somebody picks up the phone and calls 911 - whether it's snow, sleet or rain - and when they're at their bullet point, who do you turn to? Who do you ask for help? The guy in the uniform." Ellsworth said America is calling 9-1-1, noting issues here and abroad that need to be solved. "These aren't Republican and Democratic issues," he said. "They're American issues."

The problem with the "sheriff" strategy is that the GOP will call him out on it. Hoosier voters don't seem to be in any mood for ducking records and certainly Ellsworth's congressional record will come under intense scrutiny.

Since Ellsworth received the nomination and appeared in Plainfield, he has been under the radar, as was the case in the two weeks following the primary. The problem for Ellsworth is that he must begin to close the polling gap. If we're still talking about a 15-point spread in August, this campaign never got off the ground.

While Ellsworth has received \$1 million from Evan Bayh's war chest, come October he's going to need Bayh



more than ever. Bayh will have to do what Lee Hamilton did for Baron Hill in his first congressional race back in 1998 - campaign by his side constantly during the homestretch. The Ellsworth campaign begins in a hole not necessarily his making. He's never run in a close election and now in the biggest one of his life, he must come from behind. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Coats

CD1: U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky vs. Republican Mark Leyva

Cook Partisan Voting Index: D+8 (ranked 313). **2008:** Obama 62%, McCain 37%; Visclosky 199,954, Leyva 76,647. **2006:** Visclosky 104,195, Leyva 40,146. 2004 Kerry 55%, Bush 44 %. **2010 Outlook:** Even if Visclosky had been indicted from fallout in the PMA Scandal, we don't see him as being under threat even in the 70- to 100-seat scenario described above. The question might be at this point is whether there's a grand jury still snooping around Visclosky's records. If Visclosky's blood had been in the water, there would have been a credible Democrat like Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott who would have stepped up for a primary challenge. Leyva is a perennial GOP challenger who never, ever comes close. Even in 2010. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Visclosky

CD2: U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly vs. State Rep. Jackie Walorski

Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+2 (ranked 219). **2008:** Obama 54%, McCain 45%; Donnelly 187,416, Puckett 84,455. **2006:** Donnelly 103,561, Chocola 88,300. **2004:** Bush 56%, Kerry 43%. **2010 Outlook:** This is the most competitive CD in Indiana that flipped twice in the last decade when Republican Chris Chocola won the open seat in 2002 before losing to Donnelly in 2006. Donnelly won reelection by a comfortable margin last cycle. Since the Wall Street and Detroit meltdowns, Donnelly has won high marks from Democrats and independents who believe he stepped up to help the Obama administration develop a strategy that saved General Motors and Chrysler even as they plunged into bankruptcy. Donnelly is also personally popular with many Republicans and of the three Hoosier Blue Dogs, is probably in better shape to weather the storm. Walorski has been a consistent conservative voice in the Indiana House and for a time was a champion of the movement to abolish property taxes that never found favor with Gov. Mitch Daniels. She has been a vociferous opponent of the health reforms and counts TV talk show host Glenn Beck

as a role model. Walorski is expected to wage an intense battle against Donnelly over his pro vote for health reform and the federal bailouts. Democrats believe that if Donnelly sticks to his moderate principles (Donnelly, for instance, voted against the Waxman/Markey carbon caps), accents his role in putting the anti-abortion language in the final health reform bill (some states are now using the new law on pro-life matters), he can survive. A massive GOP tsunami could wash him out. There has been no recent, independent polling in this district. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Donnelly

CD3: Open vs. Democrat Dr. Tom Hayhurst

Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+14 (ranked 64). **2008:** McCain 56%, Obama 43%; Souder 155,693, Montagnao 112,309. **2006:** Souder 95,421, Hayhurst 80,357. 2004: Bush 68%, Kerry 32%. **2010 Outlook:** Knock us over with a feather! We knew that U.S. Rep. Mark Souder had been gripped by deep angst over his recent tough elections, the early mortality in his family, and his often emotional conflicts with the Obama administration. Now the 3rd CD is poised for two elections in the next six months and Hayhurst is sitting on at least \$234,000 that he



State Rep. Jackie Walorski and State Sen. Marlin Stutzman at a January press conference at the Indiana Statehouse. (HPI Photo by Steve Dickerson)

reported on his first quarter FEC report. He has to be looking at the March 1989 special election where Democrat Jill Long upset the establishment GOP candidate Dan Heath. Before you automatically discount the Democrats, go back to the congressional GOP approve/disapprove numbers that have been in the 30/60 range all year. That Hayhurst was a popular Fort Wayne Councilman and a medical doctor (without a vote on the Affordable Health Car Act) and he



Dr. Tom Hayhurst, a former Fort Wayne Councilman, will likely have a money advantage in a 3rd CD special election. (Hayhurst campaign photo)

can make a credible case that he understands the profession and will bring a fresh perspective. Hayhurst's opponent could be State Sen. Marlin Stutzman, fresh off of a decent U.S. Senate primary showing with 29 percent, though the entry of Dan Coats came about because Stutzman had trouble raising cash. He did garner endorsements from the American Conservative Union and U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint and is widely admired by Republicans here, where he carried the district against Coats, who used to represent the district. But as a district director for Souder, Stutzman will likely be pressed on his relationship with the staffer the congressman had an affair with. That could get messy. It's also worth noting that the bulk of the caucus voters (about 270) will be from Allen County and what we're watching there is whether State Reps. Randy Borrer or Matt Bell can put together a coalition that could secure the nominations. Senate President Pro Tempore David Long has indicated to HPI he will not run. Others to watch on the Fort Wayne City Council are Mitch Harper, who considered running for the seat as a state legislator in 1994 and Councilwoman Liz Brown. Phil Troyer, who finished third in the May 4 primary, told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette that he would be a candidate for the caucus election if Thomas is also a candidate. He said if Stutzman declares his interest, "I would talk to party leaders" before becoming a candidate. The Thomas campaign told the Associated Press he was preparing to enter a special election race. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

CD4: Secretary of State Todd Rokita vs.

Democrat David Sanders

Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+14 (ranked 59). **2008:** McCain 56%, Obama 43%; Buyer 192,526, Ackerson 129,038. **2006:** Buyer 111,057, Sanders 66,986. 2004: Bush 69%, Kerry 30%. **2010 Outlook:** Secretary of State Todd Rokita should easily defeat Democrat David Sanders in November. Nels Ackerson raised credible money and ran a decent campaign and was walloped by Rep. Buyer in 2008. There's no way this seat switches from the GOP. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Rokita.

CD5: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton vs. Democrat Tim Crawford

Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+17 (rank 33). **2008:** McCain 59 percent, Obama 40 percent; Burton 234,705, Ruley 123,357. **2006:** Burton 133,118, Carr 64,362. 2004: Bush 71%, Kerry 28%. **2010 Outlook:** Crawford is a former Republican, now listing his affiliation as American Realist Democrat, who wants to represent the district as an independent conservative. He wants to see "Marxist social justice philosophy end" in Washington and says the federal government must set an example of fiscal responsibility. He currently works as a senior estimator for Southern Retail Construction. While 70 percent of Republican primary participants voted against Burton, it is hard to see a Democrat winning this seat this fall, even a conservative, Tea Party Democrat who will have little money. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Burton

CD6: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence vs. Democrat Barry Welsh

Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+10 (ranked 106). **2008:** McCain 52%, Obama 46%; Pence 180,608, Welsh 94,265. **2006:** Pence 115,266, Welsh 76,812. 2004: Bush 64%, Kerry 35%. **2010 Outlook:** Rep. Mike Pence was the biggest primary season spender at \$1.1 million in the delegation, but none of it was for himself. He comes bearing gifts to GOP challengers across the state and nation. He wins in November in another race against Rev. Barry Welsh. The biggest question is whether he announces he'll run for governor in 2012 (or president). **Horse Race Status:** Safe Pence

CD7: U.S. Rep. Andre Carson vs. Republican Marvin Scott

Cook Partisan Voting Index: D+14 (Rank 358). **2008:** Obama 71%, McCain 28%; Andre Carson 172,650, Campo 92,645. **2006:** Julia Carson 74,750, Dickerson



64,304. **2004:** Kerry 58%, Bush 42%. 2010 Outlook: This is the second most partisan district in the state and we just don't see Marvin Scott - even in a 100-year GOP tsunami scenario - coming close to Carson. The more intriguing matchup would have been slated candidate Carlos May, who lost to Scott in the primary. And that tells you all you need to know. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Carson

CD8: State Rep. Trent Van Haaften vs. Republican Dr. Larry Bucshon



Dr. Larry Bucshon has to work on his Republican base if he hopes to win the Bloody 8th CD. (Bucshon campaign photo)

Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8 (ranked 130). **2008:** McCain 51%, Obama 47%; Ellsworth 188,693, Goode 102,769. **2006:** Ellsworth 131,019, Hostettler 83,704. 2004: Bush 62%, Kerry 38%. **2010 Outlook:** This seat is in serious jeopardy for the Democrats. In a normal scenario, Van Haaften would be the perfect Democrat to step up in this district. He's a former prosecutor and has gotten generally high marks in the Indiana General Assembly, though he took some hits on the Indianapolis Stars' continual lobby gifting exposes. But this is a GOP trending district in a Republican year. The biggest thing to watch is whether

Dr. Larry Bucshon - barely the Republican nominee - can close ranks with the Kristi Risk/Tea Party wing of the party. Van Haaften must worry about base suppression (i.e. see 1994). So both candidates have their base work cut out for them over the summer. We give a slight edge to Dr. Bucshon who will be a credible critic of the Affordable Health Care Act and the fact that this appears to be a Republican year. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Bucshon

CD9: U.S. Rep. Baron Hill vs. Republican Todd Young

Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+6 (ranked 153). **2008:** McCain 50%, Obama 48%; Hill 181,281, Sodrel 120,529. **2006:** Hill 110,454, Sodrel 100,469. **2004:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. **2010 Outlook:** This race is a pure toss-up with Young coming at Hill over his health care reform and cap & trade votes. To Hill's credit, he hasn't glossed over those votes like Ellsworth has tried. His post-primary statement indicated he was prepared to defend those

votes. He also has characterized Young as a "carpetbagger," picking up on the "Carmel boy" jabs that came from allies of former Congressman Mike Sodrel. Hill had \$895,000 in campaign cash as of April 14, while Young had less than \$152,000, but we expect that gap to close. Young will be able to run the kind of campaign he needs to win after raising close to \$500,000 before the primary. The critical question for Young is whether he can close ranks with the Sodrel and Travis Hankins supporters. Hankins got 32 percent, Sodrel 30 percent compared to Young's 34 percent in the primary. But there was great animosity between Sodrel and Young, with the former threatening a defamation suit against the nominee in the final week of the campaign. If Young can't close ranks, that's the second best news Hill could receive (compared to the \$750,000 the GOP field spent in the primary). **Horse Race Status:** Tossup ❖

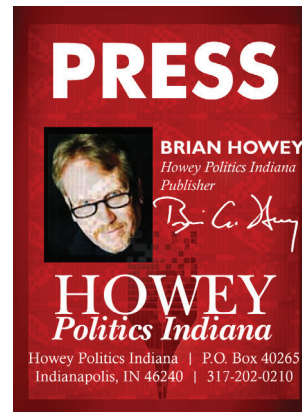
Souder ends up in an unlikely pantheon

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - For as long as there has been this report you're reading, there's been Mark Souder. For most of the past 16 years Howey Politics Indiana computers were perched on an antique "HoweMCo," sewing table purchased at Souder's antique shop in Grabill in 1994. There was a long interview in the ancient school house there as Souder discussed in minute detail his bid to upset U.S. Rep. Jill Long that year, shortly after we began publishing.

Souder was a mainstay of the Gingrich Revolution. He was not only right of center, he was a lecturing congressman who often made moral judgments when many saw large swaths of gray. If you had an illegal drug conviction, in Souder's view, you wouldn't get a federally backed student loan.

In an infamous video - headlining on YouTube for the past 24 hours - Souder told staffer, Tracy Meadows Jackson, with whom he was having an affair, that while he favored sexual abstinence, he wasn't sure any method really worked. "I personally think I should have abstained





from the hearing," Souder quipped of an April House Oversight Committee. "This was arguably the most biased hearing."

It was just last month that I called Souder to get an update on his primary race against Bob Thomas. What I thought would be a quick three to five minute conversation turned into a 45-minute stream of consciousness as he darted on and off the U.S. House floor casting votes.

It was an anguished conversation. Souder said he was "miserable" and that the nature of his campaign with Thomas "sealed" his decision that this would be his last term. It was a stance his campaign quickly backed away from, and for a brief time the campaign appeared to be challenging the veracity of my reporting until HPI published a transcript of the conversation.

Little did I know that lurking beneath Souder's tormented psyche was the extra-marital affair that would end his political career. When I talked with him, the possibility of a sex scandal was the last thing I would have pondered. Throughout Tuesday after word of the resignation leaked out, there was a torrent of reports like the one in the Washington Post that Souder was meeting Jackson at boat ramps for "trysts." There was the ironic YouTube video on abstinence. The Washington Post reported that rival campaigns had heard of the rumors, and didn't believe them. Then he was confronted by his chief of staff.

It was a bizarre swirl of power and sexuality coming from the most unlikely source.

In publishing this report for the past 15 years, there is the constant flow of rumor and innuendo about politicians, though not Souder. My guide on this is to report confirmation and not rumor. And there are two thresholds that make a public servant's personal life part of my reporting: if it impacts on the individual's ability to do their job; or whether there is hypocrisy.

President Kennedy's affair with an East German spy is an example of how a sexual relationship intersects with the job he was supposed to constitutionally perform. Or if a politician is a gay-basher, and then we learn about an acted upon proclivity for same sex partners, that's fair game.



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Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Weary Souder expects one last hurrah

Final term if GOP congressman can defeat the 'self-funder'

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** and **JULIE CROTHERS**

INDIANAPOLIS - With the Washington Post/ABC News poll showing an intense anti-incumbency mood and only three in 10 Republicans "leaning" toward backing an incumbent in the fall, is U.S. Rep. Mark Souder - facing a \$500,000 onslaught from a local auto dealer - on the brink?

"I think we're going to be fine," Souder told HPI as he darted in and out of the House chambers Wednesday afternoon casting votes. "But I've been miserable." A few minutes later, Souder added, "I was thinking this was going to be my last term. This just sealed it."

Auto dealer Bob Thomas, who moved into Fort Wayne to run against Souder, has spent \$245,000 on TV, \$270,000 on radio, has conducted three polls and put another \$60,000 in mailers, Souder estimates. Then there are the mailers and billboards Thomas has used assailing



REP. MARK SOUDER

Souder for his refusal to debate and supporting the cash-for-clunkers program on which Thomas' own auto dealerships made more than \$1 million.

"I had been warned about a candidate who can self-fund," Souder added.

Continued on page 4

Top 10 primary upsets

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - Primary upsets are rare, perhaps rarer in Indiana. Even in volatile political years when incumbents have been defeated in greater than usual numbers, very few lost in primary elections. On Tuesday, Dan Burton Mark Souder or Dan Coats—who for all practical purposes is an incumbent—might join the short list of primary upset victims, but the odds are against it. Here are some of Indiana's historic primary upsets in recent years:

1. **Bobby Kennedy Over Brannigan, McCarthy (1968)** Indiana was for Robert F. Kennedy what West



Chris Sautter Column



"It's an easy enough form to fill out. I filled it out in a Chick-Fill-A parking lot."

- State Sen. Marlin Stutzman, on filling out his financial disclosure form

Souder certainly had an air of moral judgment. But on the most momentous case of his career - whether to impeach President Bill Clinton for lying about oral sex with White House intern Monica Lewinsky - the Fort Wayne Republican was maddeningly ponderous for his supporters and even his family. He would be one of the few Republicans to vote against Articles I, II and IV on the Clinton impeachment. He did vote for Article III - the obstruction of justice charge.

"Obstruction of justice was a combination of a series of things," Souder told Howey Politics shortly after the December 1998 vote. "It was clear he (Clinton) attempted to get the gifts back" he said of items that had been given Monica Lewinsky. "When you added it all together there was a pattern of trying to stop

justice from being done."

But as for the first two articles, Souder poured over documents and commiserated with U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays. "We were both unnerved. It didn't meet the standards of impeachment," Souder said.

Souder took a pounding from the Weekly Standard, his staff, his family and then-4th CD Republican Chairman Don Clark, who ironically was convicted of crimes for coercing sex from poor relief recipients while serving as a deputy township trustee.

The end of the Souder political saga is racked with irony. His own family had pushed him on the Clinton impeachment. They were not present when a teary Souder told the press he had "sinned" against his God and wife. He never lied. In fact, Souder came excruciatingly clean.

Long a fiscal conservative, his abrupt resignation will cost the counties in the 3rd CD hundreds of thousands of tax dollar to conduct a special election. An ardent Republican who worried about losing the seat in 2012 if he didn't run, the 3rd CD is now a big plum hanging in front of Dr. Tom Hayhurst, the Democrat with a clean reputation.

And perhaps most ignominiously, Souder now joins the pantheon of sex scandals: Chairman Wilbur Mills, Gov. Mark Sanford, Gov. Elliot Spitzer, Sen. Gary Hart, Sen. Larry Craig. John Edwards, and, yes, even Bill Clinton. ❖



Souder goes from ‘contract’ to GOP contraction

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - Lee Greenwood stood in the middle of the theater in the round in Warsaw on a night back in the 1990s when the timing was impeccable for an unknown Republican candidate.

There, performing at the Wagon Wheel Playhouse, Greenwood, known for his hit “God Bless the U.S.A.,” made a pitch for Republican Mark Souder. In one of the most

conservative areas of Indiana, if not the country, Greenwood figuratively waved an American flag before the audience, almost making his best-known standard a theme song for an aspiring politician.

It may have worked to perfection that night. Mark Souder succeeded in pulling the rug out from underneath incumbent Democrat Jill Long Thompson. He became part of the Newt Gingrich-led Contract With



America Republicans. Overnight, they changed the majority of Congress and they served a wake-up call to Democrats that their hallowed halls of Congress were no longer theirs to own and hold Republican presidents responsible.

Flash forward to Tuesday’s announcement from Souder that he is hastily resigning and exiting stage right. His almost understated career in Congress has been one that has been under the radar, yet not without loyalty from his constituents. Souder bested all comers who would have his seat, including former Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke, once an up-and-comer who garnered the state party’s nomination for U.S. Senate in a campaign against Evan Bayh.

Souder has gone from his days as a ‘Contract’ Republican to Tuesday’s contrition and the possible further contraction of the Republican Party as we knew it not only

in Washington in the 1990s but in Indiana since he was first elected. Republicans no longer hold a majority of Indiana House seats. Given Dan Burton’s narrow plurality victory in the primary, the resignation of Steve Buyer and now Souder calling it quits, Indiana Republicans are left with only one solid incumbent, Mike Pence, in the House. Stop and think about that statement for a second. It’s somewhat incredible to think about. Just a few years ago, Republicans held the seat Brad Ellsworth is giving up to run for Senate, they held the 2nd and even the 9th where Baron Hill was mentioned as a candidate to succeed Bayh.

What happens now in the 3rd is going to be somewhat bizarre, but the story there will be unfolding for some time and Tuesday’s announcement was only the tip of the iceberg. First, there will be a special election to select Souder’s replacement. This will be costly. A similar election was held in Illinois after former House Speaker Dennis Hastert announced his retirement.

When that special election is over, and it should be one that has a relatively light turnout since it is between the primary and the general election, there will be a November election against Democrat physician Tom Hayhurst. Souder’s resignation makes Hayhurst instantly more recognizable than his Republican opponent, unless it would be Helmke.

But the story doesn’t end there. If Hayhurst wins, look for Republican members of the Indiana House and Senate to draw congressional district lines next year that acquaint him with another Democrat, such as Joe Donnelly of South Bend, or in a district where a Republican incumbent resides, say for instance, Pence. Even if the latter doesn’t happen, it opens up some interesting debate about how congressional lines in north central Indiana will be drawn next spring. With Rep. Steve Buyer of Monticello retiring and his hand-picked successor, Brandt Hershman, losing to an Indianapolis area Republican, Todd Rokita, the loss of Buyer and Souder combined with the likely loss of Burton in another two years will open up some seats for fresh candidates from both parties.

Timing in politics, as was the case with Greenwood’s appearance many moons ago in Warsaw, is everything. And timing may just be the ingredient that invigorates many congressional campaigns in Indiana two years from now, if not this year in the 3rd District. ❖

Kitchell is an award-winning columnist based in Logansport.



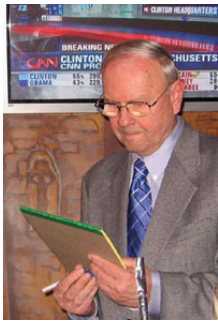
Buttigieg takes aim at Mourdock over Chrysler suit

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - For Pete's sake, why would a young man smart enough to be a Rhodes Scholar want to be state treasurer, an office with a relatively low governmental salary that oft times is the resting place for a political hack?

Peter Buttigieg says there's a good reason.

"It's about the economy and creating jobs," says Buttigieg (pronounced "Boota-judge") as he tells why he quit his job with a national consulting firm, where he specialized in economic development strategy, in order to spend full time running for Indiana state treasurer.



A state treasurer creating jobs?

"I'm running against the guy who tried to shut down Chrysler," Buttigieg explains.

Buttigieg, 28, a South Bend native with parents both with teaching careers at Notre Dame, seeks the Democratic nomination to oppose Treasurer Richard Mourdock, the Republican incumbent who captured national attention last year by seeking to block the bankruptcy transaction that saved Chrysler from liquidation.

The effort failed in the U.S. Supreme Court. Good thing, in Buttigieg's view, because it could have destroyed Obama administration efforts to keep Chrysler and General Motors in business and would have resulted in loss of a million automotive-related jobs as the nation still struggled to avoid a second Great Depression.

Just the fact that he wants to oppose Mourdock brought enthusiastic support in Kokomo, where Chrysler just announced a \$43 million expansion plan and nearly 400 additional jobs.

If Mourdock had scuttled the automotive bankruptcy agreement because of displeasure over settlement of claims for Indiana pension funds and the Major Moves (Toll Road lease) fund, Buttigieg contends, there would now be no expansion.

Worse, he says: "Had they been successful in shutting Chrysler down, Indiana would have lost thousands of jobs, retirees' hard-earned pensions would have evaporated overnight, hundreds of Hoosier companies that supply the auto industry would have gone belly-up and the state would have lost millions in tax revenues."

Mourdock still pursues the litigation, seeking higher return on Chrysler bonds held by the Indiana funds, but the threat of shutting down Chrysler no longer looms.

It's a matter of principle, Mourdock argues, because the deal was improper and sets a dangerous precedent, and also because he wants less of a loss for the funds.

It's a matter of petty politics, Buttigieg counters, with Mourdock more concerned with fighting Obama recovery efforts than with recovery and jobs, and Mourdock trying to dodge blame for fund losses from his risky investment in "junk bonds."

Buttigieg notes that Mourdock has spent \$2 million in taxpayer money for the suit and contends that any additional funds recovered are unlikely to match attorney costs. The litigation will bring in more than the lawyer fees, Mourdock claims.

They'll debate that during the campaign. Each will be nominated, likely without opposition, at his party's state convention in June.

While Mourdock, a former county commissioner from Evansville, was certain of renomination, Buttigieg had to travel the state to convince party leaders _ who initially joked about whether he was old enough to vote _ that he could help their state ticket.

Buttigieg is a graduate of St. Joseph's High School in South Bend, a school attended by a number of state political figures, including former Gov. Joe Kernan. He is also a Harvard graduate.

After Harvard, he had a choice for political campaign experience: Work in the policy sector for a U.S. Senate candidate in Illinois in 2004 or join Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry's campaign. He joined the Kerry campaign, working in Arizona and New Mexico, instead of the Senate campaign of a guy named Barack Obama.

"I learned a lot," Buttigieg says, even though he worked for a presidential loser rather than an eventual presidential winner.

"I learned you can't just say the other guy is terrible," Buttigieg learned. "People have to know what you're for."

So, he stresses safer state investment policies, prohibiting campaign contributions by banks to treasurer candidates and using state deposits to encourage economic development.

Following that '04 election, Buttigieg went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and eventually returned to South Bend, where he obtained and restored an historic home.

For Pete's sake, could Indiana have a Rhodes Scholar as treasurer? Or is that too drastic a change?





Jon Walker, FireDogLake.com: I applaud him on his great timing -- in the middle of an election day -- to try to prevent yet another tale of Republican infidelity from topping the headlines. Today is probably the biggest primary election of this cycle with several high-profile Senate contests. Those elections should dominate the news this evening and tomorrow. The breaking story about Connecticut Democratic Senate hopeful Richard Blumenthal falsely claiming to have served in Vietnam is also getting a lot of press coverage. It would be hard to imagine a better day to announce that you are resigning in disgrace and see the story quickly buried. Rep. Souder, you chose well. ❖

Kevin Leininger, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel: Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine, who said he had been hearing rumors of Souder's problems for months, said it is unclear how Souder will be replaced for the duration of this term, although Gov. Mitch Daniels could call a special election. His replacement on the ballot, however, must be chosen by district precinct leaders within 30 days, and Shine said the "phone is already ringing off the hook" with calls from prospective candidates. Although Shine would not endorse any single candidate, he said state Sen. Marlin Stutzman, who unsuccessfully ran for the Senate in this month's primary against winner Dan Coats, appears to be an early favorite. Shine said he's confident the seat will remain in Republican hands regardless of the candidate. "This is a personal issue, not a party issue. It's about a man, not a philosophy. I'm saddened," Shine said. ❖

Avi Zenilman, Vanity Fair Daily: Oops. Souder frequently meddled with CDC (Centers for Disease Control) research into at-risk behavior, and made life difficult for medical researchers of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease. For example, in March 2004, Souder hauled Dr. Jonathan Zenilman, a former CDC officer and STD specialist at Hopkins who happens to be my father, before his committee, and proceeded to lecture him on the sins of condoms and sex-outside-of-wedlock and its liberal enablers. My dad, at the time "speaking as a proud parent of three teenagers" (I've grown up since then!), thought it was important to push a message of delay, but demanding celibacy was just not going to work. "An abstinence-only approach which excludes safer sex messages and includes messages that emphasize intercourse only within the context of marriage, is therefore clearly out of touch with the realities and practices of the vast majority of Americans," he said, complaining that the whole debate was "framed in an absolutist stark context." Souder ultimately responded by saying that teen sex needs to be aggressively confront-

ed, like date rape, because out-of-wedlock sex always leads to pregnancy and ruins lives. ❖

Dana Millbank, Washington Post When was it, exactly, that the Republican revolution merged with the sexual revolution? With each passing year, the class notes for the famous House Republicans Class of '94 get more lurid. The latest entry was submitted Tuesday morning by Rep. Mark Souder (Ind.). "I sinned against God, my wife and my family by having a mutual relationship with a part-time member of my staff," he announced in a resignation statement. And it wasn't just any part-time staffer, according to sources in Souder's office. Five months ago, Tracy Jackson was his, er, "co-host" in a video the pair produced for his congressional Web site. The topic: abstinence education. "You were one of the only voices in the room speaking in defense of abstinence education," Jackson, posing as interviewer, tells her alleged paramour in the video. "You've been a longtime advocate for abstinence education." In his downfall, Souder appears likely to join classmates Mark Foley (lewd text messages to House pages), Mark Sanford (hiking the proverbial Appalachian Trail with his Argentine mistress) and John Ensign (whose parents paid the family of his ex-mistress \$96,000) in the sex-scandal hall of fame. Another of their classmates, Bob Ney, did prison time for his role in the Jack Abramoff scandal. As Eric Massa, John Edwards and Eliot Spitzer can attest, scandal can visit any party or any political body.

But the House Republicans of '94 stand out: No fewer than 15 of the 73 elected in the landslide that year have entertained the nation with flaps that include messy divorces and a suspicious car accident. ❖

Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star: Another member of Congress destroys another fine political career with another self-inflicted scandal, exposing yet more political hypocrisy along the way. Are we shocked? Of course not. We're used to this by now. That's not to diminish Tuesday's news about U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, a Republican from Fort Wayne who is very big on abstinence. (Well, other people's abstinence.) Without question, the revelation of Souder's affair shook Indiana's political landscape. And, yes, the wonkish and serious Souder, a man who seemed more thoughtful than many of his colleagues, wouldn't have been cast as the married congressman most likely to fool around with a staffer. Still, it's hard to be too shocked by politicians' misdeeds anymore. In this case, it's hard to be surprised that a politician who loved to espouse his religious and moralistic beliefs was, ultimately, just talking. As one politico told me Tuesday, "This is why nobody believes anything politicians say." ❖





Paul wins in Ky, Specter loses

INDIANAPOLIS - Party-switching Sen. Arlen Specter fell to a younger and far less experienced rival in the Pennsylvania Democratic primary, and political novice Rand Paul rode support from tea party activists to a Republican rout in Kentucky on Tuesday. The results were the latest jolts to the political establishment in a tumultuous midterm election season. In another race with national significance, Democrat Mark Critz won a special House election to fill out the term of the late Democratic Rep. John Murtha in southwest Pennsylvania. On the busiest night of the primary season to date, Arkansas Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln was forced into a potentially debilitating June runoff election against Lt. Gov. Bill Halter in her bid for nomination to a third term. Rep. John Boozman won the Republican line on the ballot outright. Taken together, the evening's results were unkind to the political establishments of both parties – with more contested primaries yet to come, particularly among Republicans. But any attempt to read into the results a probable trend for the fall campaign was hazardous. Specter, seeking his sixth term and first as a Democrat, fell to two-term Rep. Joe Sestak, who spent three decades in the Navy before entering politics. Sestak was winning 54 percent of the vote to 46 percent for Specter. Former Rep. Pat Toomey won the Republican nomination and will run against Sestak in what is likely to be one of this fall's marquee races in the battle for control of the Senate. Among Republicans, Paul's victory over Secretary of State Trey Grayson was a rebuke to the GOP Senate leader, Mitch McConnell. McConnell recruited



Grayson to the race after pushing the incumbent, Sen. Jim Bunning, into retirement out of concern that he would lose the seat to the Democrats. Paul had 59 percent of the vote to 35 percent for Grayson. Paul's opponent in the fall will be Democrat Jack Conway, the Kentucky attorney general.

Bucshon supports I-69 construction

EVANSVILLE - Republican 8th CD nominee Dr. Larry Bucshon says he will support the I-69 project connecting Indianapolis to Evansville (Howey Politics Indiana). "Today Gov. Mitch Daniels visits southwestern Indiana to announce accelerated progress on the I-69 extension from Evansville to Indianapolis," Bucshon said in an e-mail. "This interstate has long been discussed, debated, and promised for the last 50 years without action, leading many of us to become cynical about whether it was possible. But now, thanks to the strong leadership of Gov. Daniels and his Major Moves legislation, I-69 is finally a reality. I-69 is more than just a link between Evansville and Indianapolis. It means more jobs and renewed prosperity for all parts of the state. I-69 will bring thousands more jobs and solidify Indiana's place as the "Crossroads of America". Simply put, I-69 will serve as an economic development engine for generations to come." Bucshon added, "Sadly, my opponent voted against Major Moves, the primary vehicle through which we've been able to fund I-69. Without Major Moves, I-69's progress simply would not be possible. If Trent VanHaften won't support I-69 in the Statehouse, how can we count on him to support it in Congress? We need a strong voice in Washington fighting for federal support of I-69. If elected to Congress, I pledge to continue the spectacular progress on I-69 so far by ensuring it receives its fair share of federal fund-

ing. The state has invested over \$700 million in this project, but since I-69 is a federal interstate highway, the federal government must make the same commitment to finish what the state has started."

Hatcher, 15 lawyers others suspended

INDIANAPOLIS - Sixteen Lake County lawyers have had their licenses suspended for failing to complete required continuing education classes or pay attorney registration fees, or both. Most prominent among them are former Gary Mayor Richard G. Hatcher, county election board attorney Bruce Lambka and Marissa McDermott, the wife of Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. (Times of Northwest Indiana). The order does not name attorneys who may have asked the state Commission for Continuing Legal Education for an extension and shown good reason. The Indiana Supreme Court issued the suspensions Friday, but the order notes attorneys have until June 7 to meet their obligations before they are prohibited from practicing law. Hatcher said he paid his registration fee as soon as he received the notice. "The day I got that, I had already contacted the chief justice's office and paid the fee," Hatcher said. McDermott, who has served both as a county public defender and in private practice, said she completed her education requirements by April 30 but encountered problems reporting them. "It appears there was a mistake," McDermott said. "The hours were not reported that were supposed to be reported. I've been doing everything in my power to fix the error."

Supremes rule on E.C. casino funds

EAST CHICAGO - The city of East Chicago can seek changes in how it spends its casino revenue and is



not permanently bound by a 15-year-old agreement, the Indiana Supreme Court ruled Tuesday. In a 5-0 decision, the state's high court said East Chicago can alter the distribution of money from a 1995 local development agreement between the city and Ameristar Casino if the Indiana Gaming Commission approves the changes. Under that agreement, 2 percent of the 3.75 percent in adjusted gross revenue East Chicago is entitled to from the casino is paid directly to Foundations of East Chicago, a nonprofit organization created to promote economic development in the city. Mayor George Pabey wants the city to receive and control those economic development funds. Foundations sued the city and the state of Indiana arguing that a provision in the 2007 state budget giving the city authority to control those funds was special legislation not permitted by the Indiana Constitution. The court sidestepped the constitutional question, saying the dispute can be resolved through nonconstitutional means. "We conclude that the 2007 provision did not alter in any substantive way the statutory framework under which the Gaming Commission regulates licenses and license conditions, and thus find it unnecessary to rule on its constitutionality," Chief Justice Randall Shepard wrote.

Brizzi golf cart accident probe ends

INDIANAPOLIS - Indianapolis police suspended a supervisor Tuesday and reassigned him from Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi's grand jury unit because he failed to correct an erroneous injury report (Indianapolis Star). That report was filed on behalf of another officer, who was injured in the crash of a golf cart driven by Brizzi while working security in October 2008. The report said the injured officer, Detective Steve Buchanan, had been driving. It didn't mention Brizzi

at all, raising the question of whether the report was written to hide the prosecutor's role. An investigation by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's internal affairs office concluded the error was the result of a misunderstanding by the supervisor, Sgt. Michael Thayer. "Approximately one week (after the incident), Sergeant Thayer learned that Mr. Brizzi was driving the golf cart at the time of the accident," according to a statement issued by the Department of Public Safety. "Sergeant Thayer failed to complete a supplemental report to correct the facts he originally recorded in the officer injury report." IMPD suspended Thayer for one day without pay. He will be reassigned to IMPD's crime-reduction initiative.

Tipton OKs Getrag incentive

TIPTON - Officials in a central Indiana county have approved a \$13 million incentive that they hope will attract a solar panel manufacturer to a sprawling factory that a Chrysler supplier stopped building in 2008. The Tipton County Council voted unanimously Tuesday to give the money from the 20-year bond to the trust of contractors that owns the empty plant that German auto parts maker Getrag had planned as a 1,400-worker transmission factory. County Commissioner Mike Cline says the incentive was necessary to lower the cost of the building to stay in the running for the company's new location.

RDA to demolish Cline Ave. bridge

HAMMOND - The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority will lead efforts in determining the best use for land around the Cline Avenue bridge once the structure is demolished. RDA Chairman Leigh Morris said a group, including municipi-

palities and environmental stakeholders, will convene to discuss the land's future once it no longer holds the permanently closed bridge. The state has announced that the bridge, closed in November for structural concerns, would not be reconstructed over the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal. In its place, Riley and Dickey roads will handle traffic that once traveled the bridge, and barge traffic will use a drawbridge on Dickey. "It will turn a liability into an asset," said Morris at the RDA's monthly board meeting on Tuesday. "This large piece of land couldn't be used for much of anything because a bridge was there. We'll engage municipalities ... to take a fresh look."

A repeat for Mr. Math

TERRE HAUTE - Gov. Mitch Daniels today returned to Terre Haute South Vigo High School to surprise Sachin Dilip Shinde by naming him "Indiana Mr. Math" for the second consecutive year. Shinde is the first student to be honored twice by Daniels since he created the annual Hoosier High School Math and Science Awards in 2008 to recognize Indiana's top high school talent in math and science. "That four of our first six honorees since we created this award all came from a single high school is a remarkable testimony to the excellence of the teachers and staff of South Vigo. Congratulations to them, too," said Daniels. "The hard work and dedication Sachin has shown to receive this honor two years in a row is exactly what we're trying to encourage all over Indiana." Shinde, a senior, is the son of Dilip and Pratima Shinde. He earned perfect scores on the SAT and ACT math sections and received the highest score possible on the Advanced Placement calculus and statistics exams.