



Obama political wing works Indiana

OFA will try to revive 333,000 first time Hoosier voters

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The predictions have been dire for Hoosier Democrats facing their first mid-term election with President Obama in the White House. The President's approval numbers in Indiana are in the low 40th percentile. The campaign of Republican Senate nominee Dan Coats is baiting U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth to invite the President back to the state.

The Cook Political Report noted, "Whether Mr. Ellsworth will ask Mr. Obama to stump for him is a popular topic in Indiana. On his website, the Republican candidate, former Sen. Dan Coats, has repeatedly dared Mr. Ellsworth's campaign to invite the commander in chief, pointing to disapproval numbers among voters in the Hoosier State that are higher than the national average. The Ellsworth campaign has told local media outlets the President is welcome at any time."



Presidential adviser David Axelrod is the man behind the curtain when it comes to White House message and political ops. He is shown here backstage at Concord HS in Elkhart in February 2009. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Or as Ellsworth told HPI on Tuesday, "If the President of the United States - Republican or Democrat - wants to come to Indiana, I'd welcome him. I've not had any discussions with the White House about the President coming in and campaigning for me. This isn't about endorsements or people coming in for a visit. It's about two candidates."

Continued on page 4

Obama tried to talk Bayh out of retirement

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FRANKLIN - Evan Bayh and family spent part of last August floating down the Colorado River deep in the Grand Canyon pondering his future.

"No television, no cell phones," Bayh told me Wednesday afternoon. "It was great. Just a time to get away and think about life and the future. This had been on my mind for quite awhile. This had been on my mind since January - not this January but a year ago January."

Just as President Obama was tak-



"We can't let people like this scare us. We're going to take care of business."

- Gary Faulkner on his personal hunt to capture Osama bin Laden

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ing the oath of office, Bayh was telling Majority Leader Harry Reid and Democratic Senate Campaign Chairman Bob Mendendez that a reelection bid was "not a foregone conclusion."

It had been a whirlwind of two years with his own presidential campaign, the abrupt rise of Barack Obama, the entrenched Hillary Clinton campaign. Bayh dropped out of the presidential race in December 2006, backed Clinton in the primaries, and after Obama secured the nomination, the junior Hoosier senator streaked atop the veepstakes lists. When the nomination went to Joe Biden, Bayh's chances of returning to executive governance faded.

When the senator returned to the Grand Canyon rim, he had decided to end his U.S. Senate career.

Upon his return to Washington, Bayh was scheduled to meet with President Obama in the Oval Office to talk about the senator's top priority - deficit and debt reduction. "He had read my piece in the Wall Street Journal and I had been governor and he wanted to talk to me about it," Bayh said. "During that meeting I asked the President if I could have two more minutes of his time. This was the first week in September and I told him I had decided that I was not going to run for reelection."

Obama was surprised. "He asked me, 'Are you 100 percent sure?' and I said, 'I'm 98 percent sure.' And that was my mistake.

"He seized upon that 2 percent over the next - oh, however many months that was until February - I must have talked with him and met with him a number of times. I met with his Chief of Staff (Rahm Emanuel) a number of times. They tried to con-

vince me to seek reelection. I felt like I owed it to him to take that seriously."

Even in the midst of the health reform drama, the White House tried to keep Bayh in the Senate fold. During the blizzard last December that closed down Washington, Bayh met with Emanuel at the White House and Obama popped in to see if he had changed his mind.

"It was just a hard decision



for me. I love what I've done. I love serving the people of Indiana. I just concluded that 12 years in Congress was enough," Bayh said.

He had fashioned the classic pros/cons list. But when the President is asking for reconsideration, it changes the dynamic.

"I felt that with respect to the President I should think about it. It was a difficult decision and, frankly, I procrastinated. I would decide by Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving came and went. I'll decide by Christmas and then Christmas came and went. Finally it was the deadline that forced me to make the decision and I did. So that's how it all transpired," Bayh said. "There was no master plan to time my decision in a way that was going to prevent a Democratic primary. There could be nothing further from



the truth. It was a difficult decision to make and the fact that the president was trying to change my mind led me to procrastinate until there was a deadline. After I made my decision I went in and told the President first and that led to more meetings and more procrastination and the decision was finally being made with a deadline. They were just very hopeful that I would change my mind."

Bayh said that it was the assessment of the Obama team that he had the best chance at reelection. Even with the difficult political environment facing Democrats, Bayh's pollster was telling him he had "more than a 90 percent chance to win reelection."

What it really came down to was where his heart was. As a young man who had faced the early death of his mother, Marvella, Bayh had been driven to achieve much at a young age.

Now after two terms as governor, two in the U.S. Senate, Bayh has reached middle age. "I'll be 55 in December, which I'm still young enough to do other things, including doing more than one thing," is how he puts it. "I can have a significant impact, whereas if I waited until I was 61 or 67, which isn't that old, but chances of really being able to fashion a second career are just not as great. Those were all the things going through my mind, but even so, it was a very close call. I love public service. I find it incredibly rewarding to help other people."

There is no doubt that between his time as governor and that in the U.S. Senate, it is the former rather than the latter that brings out the better side in him.

"I haven't thought about this in a long time and don't read into this but one of the things that's been on my mind was that I was a governor and I felt more comfortable being an executive making decisions and people said, 'Oh, he's running for governor,'" Bayh said. "That's not what I mean. I was accustomed in public service to making decisions and taking a more significant role in the decision making process as opposed to be merely one out of 100. So the satisfaction I derived came out of making a bigger impact on people's lives was simply as an executive."

With his Senate career, the Democrats have no term limits on chairmanships like the Republicans do. He was not in line for a chairmanship or leadership "any time soon."

And he was a moderate in a Senate that lurched to the left as Obama rose to the White House.

"My views are just more moderate than many members of my caucus," Bayh acknowledged. "That means

that on a whole host of things" he was being pressured to fall in line. "Things that if I were calling the shots, we would not be doing. The caucus system really works against independence. You run the risk of constantly going your own way." He said the caucus demands his support "not just 80 percent of the time, but 100 percent of the time. That is just a system I found increasingly to be uncomfortable."

And Bayh disputes recent reports that he hand-picked U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth to replace him when the Indiana Democratic Central Committee chose his replacement on May 15. "I was scrupulously neutral," he said.

He called U.S. Rep. Baron Hill who was in Afghanistan at the time and also Ellsworth, urging both to consider a Senate run.

As for his future, Bayh is keeping an "open mind." He resisted the notion that a decision has been made to run for governor in 2012.

"It's only June," Bayh said. "Let's get through the 2010 elections first." As for 2012, he said, "I won't keep people waiting," suggesting he will make any political decision before the end of the year.

As for Ellsworth, Bayh was asked if he might do what former congressman Lee Hamilton did in 1998 when he spent the final two weeks of the campaign shoulder to shoulder with Baron Hill, who pulled out a close victory.

"I'll do whatever they ask me to do," Bayh said. "I've turned over my mailing list to him, my donor

list. I had a fundraiser for him in New York City. I'll be happy to help any way I can."

As for dispersing some of his \$12 million war chest to other Hoosier Democrats, Bayh said that the \$1 million he sent to the state party that will go to Ellsworth is the "largest" contribution any candidate has ever made in Indiana history.

As our conversation waned, Bayh had some final thoughts. He said there are an "incredible number of people" in Indiana and the Democratic Party who can lead.

"I always tell my sons that life is a team sport and that is especially true in political life. If you say anything nice about me in your article, I want to share the credit with a whole host of people who stood by me in the beginning and all the way and without them a lot would have been impossible." ❖





Organizing, from page 1

That's what they vote for, the names on the ballot. I want to win this because people think I'm the best to represent them up here."

Whether President Obama comes to Indiana or not, Hoosier Democrats have a response. Two doors down from the office of Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker is the redoubt of John Spears, who heads the Organizing for America campaign in Indiana for the 2010 election cycle. Spears worked for the Obama campaign in northeastern Pennsylvania during the epic 2008 campaign. He is now charged with trying to reactivate about 333,000 first-time Hoosier voters who came out in 2008, many of them voting for Obama.

This cycle's endeavor is to try and get these voters enthused about Ellsworth, U.S. Reps. Baron Hill and Joe Donnelly, and 3rd CD Democratic nominee Tom Hayhurst. The Obama campaign spent \$5.2 million in Indiana in 2008 to lay the groundwork. On June 6, OFA began the process of reengaging these voters nationwide. Across the U.S. and here in Indiana, there is a five-month campaign underway to bolster these congressional Democrats who stuck their necks out politically on the health reforms, the 2009 stimulus package, and the cap and trade legislation that conventional wisdom suggests has made them all vulnerable.

Spears calls it the "earliest kick-off of door-to-door political canvassing by either party for a general or midterm." In 2008, the organization was prodigious in making contact. In my case, there were five contacts by volunteers in April and May 2008 prior to the epic Hillary Clinton-Barack Obama showdown.

There has been a thread throughout the Obama presidency. In March 2009, Organizing for America (changed from Obama for America) canvassed on March 21 of that year asking Indianapolis residents to "to take a pledge of support for President Obama's bold approach to renew America's economy and invest in energy, health care, and education." There was the Statehouse rally around the corner from the Tea Party this year as the health reforms came up for a critical vote that included support from Hill, Ellsworth, Donnelly, Andre Carson and Pete Visclosky.

In normal cycles the most vulnerable of these Hoosier Democrats - almost always including Hill and now with a Republican tide potentially rising includes Donnelly and

Ellsworth's Senate campaign - they would rely on long-time allies like the United Auto Workers, the Steelworkers and the ISTA and NEA PACs. But according to Matt Bai, writing in the June 13 edition of the New York Times Magazine, the Obama White House is intent on changing the way congressional campaigns are run.

"Democrats running for the House and the Senate, like the party's presidential candidates, have generally relied almost exclusively on the unions and other constituency groups to get out the vote, using paid phone banks and door-knockers," Bai wrote. "Starting out, Obama didn't have that option. His party's existing organization structure was largely beholden to Hillary Clinton through the 2008 primaries, so Obama recruited an army of volunteers, many of them previously uninvolved in any kind of party politics."

That was certainly the case in Indiana when U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, former Gov. Joe Kernan, Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott, Speaker B. Patrick Bauer, Chairman Dan Parker and dozens of their supporters rallied behind Hillary's Indiana campaign. At the climax in the May 2008 primary, Clinton escaped with a .5 percent victory that was finally declared well after midnight. Obama, dogged by the Rev. Jeremiah Wright story during the Indiana primary battle, almost pulled off that upset.

Seven months later, Obama did it, moving Indiana into the Blue column for the first time since 1964 with his defeat of Sen. John McCain. Between the primary loss and the November victory, Obama's campaign opened up some 40 offices in places like Hartford City and Goshen where no presidential campaign had ever had a presence. Obama himself appeared in the state 49 times, including his last campaign stop at a UAW call center in Indianapolis on Election Day.

It's worth noting that Obama's first official visit outside of Washington as President occurred in Elkhart, where he pushed for the stimulus, and he's made subsequent appearances in Wakarusa (for alternative energy investment) and a Notre Dame commencement.

Bai notes, "Obama emerged from the campaign having assembled what was essentially an alternative campaign apparatus to the party itself - a closely guarded, state-by-state list of more than 10 million names, many of them phone bankers, letter-writers and small-dollar donors. This network, loyal to the President but not necessarily to his party, helped Obama amass upward of \$300 million for the general election and registered millions of new voters for him. The new politics are tactical. Obama's advisers believe they can, at least in some measure, bequeath the new politics to the party itself. And their message to Congressio-



Obama campaign manager David Plouffe transformed OFA to a White House political wing. He is shown here at Obama headquarters in Indianapolis. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



nal Democrats running this year is that if they don't adopt the tactics of the Obama campaign, they're probably going to lose."

Third Way has noted that Obama carried 54 percent of independent voters in 2008, but in 2009 and 2010 elections in New Jersey, Virginia and Massachusetts, only a third voted Democratic. Pew Research polling shows Obama's independent support has dropped from 63 percent to 47 percent, according to the New York Times Magazine. "That would seem to leave only one way for Democrats to avoid being swept away on the receding tide and that's to turn out some sizable portion of those first-time voters from 2008 - the surge voters," Bai wrote. While Democratic National Chairman Tim Kaine has made a \$50 million commitment to congressional campaigns, only \$20 million will come in cash. The rest, Bai reports, will come with OFA organizing and volunteers.

OFA has picked up where the Obama presidential campaign left off. On June 21, OFA volunteers got an email from Mitch Stewart, who heads the national effort. It included a video "special message from President Obama" on the BP oil spill crisis. "Hello everybody," Obama began. "Today I wanted to speak directly to OFA volunteers about one of the most important challenges facing us in a nation." He went on to describe the "worst environmental disaster in history" and said that "stopping it has tested the limits of human technology."

Obama then tried to rally the OFA volunteer base: "If we're honest with ourselves, the days of cheap and easily accessible oil are numbered. This is a painful and powerful reminder yet the time to embrace clean energy is now. We also know that only real change is possible when we organize from the bottom up. If we refuse to heed the warnings of this disaster we will have missed our best chance to build the clean energy future this country needs. That's why I'm asking you to stand with me today, add your name for a clean energy future."

There has been plenty of speculation that because of the hits the UAW and the Indiana State Teachers Association have taken either by the economy or by the securities fraud case, they might not be as big of players in Democratic campaigns this year. But the UAW has given Rep. Hill's campaign \$5,000 in early cash. Last Saturday, Ellsworth appeared before UAW members in Anderson and told members there, "It's a grassroots campaign, letting people lift the hood, kick the tires and see what they think."

Chairman Parker said OFA is not replacing the UAW. "I would not say the word supplanting. I would say complimenting," Parker said. "They've got upwards of eight staff here, all on national party payroll complimenting the Indiana party. Their focus is the first time Obama voters. They are very sophisticated voters reached through the '08 Obama campaign. There are a lot of joint efforts between

the congressional campaigns and OFA, the Senate race and OFA."

Parker also insisted that Gov. Mitch Daniels' education reforms (which, ironically is in line with President Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan) will motivate teachers to get involved. Parker notes that the local Uniserv PACs are independent from the ISTA parent group embroiled in securities fraud allegations.

Parker said that OFA will bring Democratic campaigns a variety of contact methods, "Through phone, mail, door to door, and community teams. The teams from '08 will be rebuilt for 2010. It is going to be a lot of community-based teams. There will be many touches."

On Rep. Hill's campaign, Nick Buis is managing the effort. The son of Tom Buis, a former staffer for U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh, Buis took over OFA in Indiana in 2009 before joining the Hill campaign. The link between Hill and Obama is important. It was Hill who in late April 2008 endorsed Obama against not only the Bayh machinery, but counter to the wishes of many 9th CD chairs and party activists. Buis was not made available for this story, with Hill campaign communication director Daniel Altman telling HPI he was traveling to Washington. The campaign was circumspect on the involvement of OFA as well as the traditional labor groups that have, at times, had fitful relationships with Hill over issues such as trade with China.

"Baron's always had the support of volunteers," Altman said. Asked for the numbers of OFA in regards to his campaign, Altman declined, saying, "Baron has a robust network of volunteers. It's been a varied group in the past. He's got volunteers from a lot of different areas."

Ellsworth may be the candidate who could benefit most from OFA. He is running statewide for the first time and was largely unknown north of I-70 when U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh announced his retirement last February. Asked about OFA involvement in his campaign, Ellsworth told HPI, "I don't know that. I would certainly take their help. I know that was a very energized group, but a lot of that was for the President. He held that group up and I don't know if I will have that same effect on them. But I will take anybody's help that I can get.

"It's a grassroots organization and if they believe that my message is the right one, then sure I'll take their help," Ellsworth said.

President Obama is not on the ballot, but carrying his message and defending votes for the cause will fall on the shoulders of Ellsworth, Hill and Donnelly over the next five months. Two years ago, there were many doubters that OFA would have much of an impact or that Obama could carry the state. Today, the goal may be even more arduous if you consider that it's much tougher to govern than run, much more difficult to defend controversial decisions made during the heat of trying times.❖



Obama's numbers plummet in NBC/WSJ

Two months of oil continuing to gush from a well off the Gulf Coast, as well as an unemployment rate still near 10 percent, have taken a toll on President Barack Obama and his standing with the American public, according to the latest NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. For the first time in the survey, more disapprove of his job performance than approve; for the first time in his presidency, more than 60 percent believe the country is on the wrong track; and as he relieves Gen. Stanley McChrystal of his command in Afghanistan, Obama's scores on being able to



handle a crisis and on being decisive have plummeted since last year.

This is a president who has been bruised and bloodied by the events of the past few months, although not yet knocked down, say the Democratic and Republican

pollsters who conducted the survey.

"There is just no way that an American president is not going to see his job rating affected" after these events, observed GOP pollster Bill McInturff. "The little faint signs [of improvement] we were seeing in April and May have been squished by two months of this story in the Gulf."

In the poll, Obama's job-approval rating stands at 45 percent, which is down five points from early last month and down three points from late May. Forty-eight percent in the current survey say they disapprove of his job performance.

What's more, Obama's favorable/unfavorable rating is now at 47 percent to 40 percent, down from 49 percent to 38 percent in early May and 52 percent to 35 percent in January.

His scores on other aspects of the presidency also have declined. In April 2009, 54 percent gave the president high marks for being able to handle a crisis; now it's 40 percent. In July 2009, 57 percent gave him high marks for being decisive and for his decision-making; now it's 44 percent. And also in July 2009, 61 percent gave him high marks for having strong leadership qualities; now it's 49 percent.

A silver lining for Obama is that his personal scores are still strong: 64 percent give him high marks for being easygoing and likeable, and 51 percent give him high marks for being compassionate enough to understand average people.

When it comes to the midterm elections, the Republican Party still appears to have the edge heading into November. Forty-five percent prefer a GOP-controlled Congress after this year's elections, compared with 43 percent who want a Democratic-controlled Congress. This is the GOP's second-straight lead on this generic-ballot question, which hasn't occurred since 2002. "The Republican Party has a major advantage in the fall, and this poll just reconfirms that," Hart said.

Moreover, 32 percent say their vote this November will be a signal of opposition for Obama, versus 27 percent who say it will be a signal of support for him. That's a reversal from January, when 37 percent said their vote would be in support for the president, while 27 percent said it would be in opposition.

Democrat floor fight brews

A floor fight is brewing this Saturday at the Indiana Democratic Convention between the two candidates vying for the Secretary of State nomination - Tom McKenna and Vop Osili. HPI talked to McKenna about Osili's recent endorsement from the influential 105 Lake County delegates.

McKenna said he knew Osili had plans to meet with the delegates, but was somewhat blindsided that its purpose turned out to be more than a typical "meet and greet." The endorsement, McKenna says, "Really doesn't change anything. We have embarked upon a plan that we have put into place months ago. I'm excited about the convention. I think I have broad-based support through out the state."

A confident Osili says that 50 counties are supporting him, as well as a number of districts, mayors and unions. "I'm cautiously optimistic based on the reception we have received across the state," he said. He calls the Lake County endorsement a "blessing" that confirms his campaign message is reaching delegates.

Both candidates are central-Indiana based with easy access to the Marion County Democratic Party -- McKenna lives in Carmel and Osili lives in Indianapolis. Both have had to campaign hard to make a connection with statewide delegates. According to Butch Morgan, St. Joe Democratic Party, both campaigns have sent out an unusually large amount of mailers.

While the Lake County Dem support is an endorsement windfall for Osili, McKenna's website lists some heavy hitters who have tremendous influence -- including former Govs. Joe Kernan and Frank O' Bannon, and Sen. Evan Bayh. - **Brittany Brownrigg**

Sam Locke kicks off auditor campaign

Sam Locke, one of the newer faces in the Indiana



Democratic Party, is running for state auditor this fall where he will challenge Republican Tim Berry. Locke is hoping to implement some changes to the office if elected. Locke said that he has two main goals for the state auditor's office. The first is to make the office more innovative through technology. He said he believes that a new computer process called Accounts Payable Recovery and Contract Audit could find small savings throughout the state that he believes will add up. According to Locke, the computer process does not cost anything to implement but could save Indiana millions of dollars each year. He said the system that provides transparency.

He also wants to activate the office to become a better watchdog. Locke said he believes the state auditor is in a great position to raise a red flag on wasteful spending. The position, he said, should hold agencies accountable and through this watchdog system save the state money.

Locke's experiences is as an air force officer, a non-profit manager and a small business owner, and he said he believes he has learned the skills necessary to be a successful state auditor. Locke said the military taught him valuable budgeting and leadership skills. It was an incredible learning experience, Locke said, and there is no better place to learn management skills than in the military. -

Brittany Brownrigg

9th CD: POS poll shows Hill leading

The Todd Young 9th CD Republican campaign released a Public Opinion Strategies poll showing U.S. Rep. Baron Hill leading 41-34 percent.

The poll was conducted with 300 likely voters on May 25-26 and has a +/- error rate of 5.66 percent. The poll showed that Hill's favorable/unfavorables stood at 53/37 percent, and that 37 percent favored his reelection while 49 percent said they would support someone new.

The poll had 64 percent saying the country was on the wrong track, 55 percent disapproved of President Obama and 71 percent disapproved of Congress. Among undecided voters, Hill's fav/unfavs stood at 35/45 percent. The POS memo called Hill a "wounded incumbent" and predicted the race would be "competitive." Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Baron Hill wrote an op-ed article highlighting "positive economic news." Hill explained, We have received some positive economic news recently. Indiana leads the nation in job growth over the past year and a Manpower Employment Outlook Survey said Hoosier companies expect to hire at a 'healthy pace' during the third quarter. While welcome news, there is certainly much more work to be done regarding job creation and retention. And, I firmly believe that our economy will never be on solid footing until we get our fiscal house in order. To that end, I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress lately in advancing the Blue Dog Coalition Blueprint for Fiscal Reform.

The group of fiscally-conservative Democrats' Blueprint, of which I am an active member, outlines an extensive list of legislative priorities aimed at cutting spending and balancing the budget within 10 years while simultaneously reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio. Item number one on our agenda has been accomplished – reinstating my pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) budgeting rules bill. As the fine folks of Southern Indiana have heard me say on numerous occasions, PAYGO forces Congress to offset any new or increased spending and live within a budget, just as Hoosier families do every day. And, it has proven successful in the past, largely credited with attaining the budget surpluses we enjoyed in the late 1990s and early 2000s." **HPI Horse Race:** Tossup.

Treasurer: Buttigieg will reject bank money

Democratic candidate for Indiana State Treasurer Pete Buttigieg announced that his campaign would decline all contributions from banks and, when elected, would pursue legislation to prohibit such donations in the future. Specifically, Buttigieg (pronounced Boota-judge) said his campaign would not accept corporate or political action committee (PAC) donations from any bank, including those doing business or seeking to do business with the Office of State Treasurer and those that accepted federal bailout money. The campaign will also cap the amount individuals employed in the banking industry can donate at \$2,400, using federal limits as a model. "Regardless of what others do, I feel it was important for me to publicly put a stake in the ground on this issue. It's the right thing to do," said Buttigieg, a businessman from South Bend. "Hoosiers should never have to wonder whether decisions made in the treasurer's office about where to place their money are affected by campaign contributions - and when I am state treasurer, they won't." The state treasurer manages more than \$7 billion in investments, and has significant discretion over which banks profit from the deposit of public funds. Buttigieg is challenging Republican Treasurer Richard Mourdock. **HPI Horse Race:** Leans Mourdock

HD77: IMA endorses Musgrave

Republican HD77 candidate Cheryl Musgrave announced the Indiana Manufacturers Association had endorsed her campaign for HD77. "Jobs are the most important issue in this race," Musgrave said. "Increasing jobs and improving Indiana's economic development so that we will have more jobs is my number one priority." **HPI Horse Race:** Tossup





This is the ballad of Stanley and Gary

"No wonder you're late. Why, this watch is exactly two days slow." - The Mad Hatter, Alice in Wonderland

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FRANKLIN - The juxtaposition that came Wednesday was so stark, soooooo American.

Around noon, four-star Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the U.S. commander of the 9-year-old war in Afghanistan, was unceremoniously dumped at the White House by President Obama after he let it all hang out in ... Rolling Stone.

About 10 hours later, Gary Faulkner, an unemployed California construction worker with kidney disease, landed in Los Angeles once Pakistan officials released him after detaining him during a private mission to bring Osama bin Laden to justice.

McChrystal was a proud, 30-year career military man who convinced Obama to send in some 140,000 Americans and allies to try and get a grip in a country that has a reputation for devouring empires. It hasn't been pretty. McChrystal's signature offense at Marja has since been described by the general as a "bleeding ulcer." The Kandahar offensive has been delayed. President Karzai is going rogue and making overtures to the Taliban (which is getting indirect payments from U.S. intelligent sources, according to the Washington Post).

And there is Faulkner, who was detained in the wilds of northwest Pakistan hunting down bin Laden with a 40-inch sword, a pistol, a pair of handcuffs, night vision goggles, some Christian literature, and a small chunk of hashish.

Faulkner is the next American hero, to be appearing soon on King Larry (as Lady Ga Ga calls him), Leno, Letterman, the Daily Show and the Colbert Report.

Faulkner wasn't saying much when he arrived in

La-La Land because he had \$1 to his name and was looking to do what any reasonable American would ... cash in.

But his message had the clarity of Rodney King ("Why can't we all just get along?") when he told the press, "We can't let people like this scare us. We don't get scared by people like this, we scare them and that's what this is about. We're going to take care of business."

As God might have asked Howard Beal of UBS News, why him? He responded by saying, "People who never get out of their chair and away from the TV set need to do something with their life." And for his critics? "For all of you out there who have something negative to say, it sucks to be you."

Dude, you are my personal Ninja hero.



President Obama dresses down Gen. McChrystal last December aboard Air Force 1 in Copenhagen.

President Obama had a much tougher day. "I don't make this decision based on any difference in policy with General McChrystal, as we are in full agreement about our strategy. Nor do I make this decision out of any sense of personal insult," Obama said in the Rose Garden. "Stan McChrystal has always shown great courtesy and carried out my orders faithfully. I've got great admiration for him and for his long record of service in uniform."

But, the once "livid" Obama continued, "War is bigger than any one man or woman, whether a private, a general or a president."

ABC News reported that in their terse meeting in the Oval Office, Obama told McChrystal, "I've made a lot of mistakes. Don't worry -- this one mistake is not what you'll be remembered for."

And to his staff, Obama reportedly said, "This was not a good thing, but it had to be done. But if I catch any of you crowing about it I will come down on you like a ton of bricks."

That Obama could install the previous uber American hero - Gen. David Petraeus - to take over what many see as a deepening quagmire in Afghanistan - was a coup de gras.

So on the day during this hot and stormy summer of discontent, when the cap came off the BP runaway well and oil coated the sandy white Pensacola beaches, an old soldier faded away and Rambo came home. ❖



Ellsworth talks health reforms, bailouts and his Senate campaign

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The phone rang Tuesday and Brad Ellsworth abruptly said, "It was a whole lot simpler when I just picked up the phone at the sheriff's office and it was 5 o'clock in the morning."

But this was U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth, now a U.S. Senate nominee, preparing for his first Indiana Democratic Convention this Saturday. We talked for about 30 minutes and this is what he had to say:



HPI: What has been the reaction to the health reforms now that more details are beginning to come out?

Ellsworth: I've had mixed reaction. I have had no less than hundreds of meetings and thousands of phone calls and correspondence going back and forth. I've got to tell you it

was a diverse response: people who were all for it, people who were all against it. And so that became my goal to dissect it and make the best decision I could on what I felt was best for the state and the country. That being said, I can remember when I ran for Congress starting in 2005 and the Medical Alliance said, "You guys have to start doing something on health care." And so I think everybody agrees that something needed to happen. It was a good first step. It's not perfect. There will be tweaks, there will be fixes as we go along. I would have liked to have seen something more incremental. When you have something that big it becomes ripe for misinformation and when people get misinformation they get scared. As more people dissect this they are more satisfied. It's not the end all by any means. We have to work toward a healthier country.

HPI: Do you see a shift in public reaction when they learn the details?

Ellsworth: I think so. There will be some people who won't shift at all. Those are the partisans who want to use it as a tool to win political races. I can't do that. My sole goal in this is to find a good piece of legislation that makes health care more affordable for Americans. Where I've seen the biggest shift is with seniors. Early on they were talking about death camps and panels, but now they are talking about closing the donut hole and pre-existing conditions and things that it will do. I did a tele-townhall

with AARP two weeks ago and there were 5,000 people on the phone and they seemed a lot more comfortable with it. They still have a lot of questions but there are a lot of places where people can go and find the facts. As more people learn about the bill, the more they like it.

HPI: Republicans seem to be concentrating on the various bailouts, from Wall Street to the auto makers to the stimulus. How are you going to frame that debate over the next five months?

Ellsworth: It's not about framing for me. I want to tell you the process I went through to make a decision. Let me take the auto bailout first. What I started to do was calling people back home. There were people I knew in the business. Probably the most convincing call I made was to Toyota, which has a plant in my district at Princeton and I asked them what their opinion was. They said we had to do this. I asked them why and they said you have to understand that their suppliers were also the suppliers to GM and Chrysler and if they went out of business in an abrupt manner, and the suppliers went down, they would go down also. That was pretty convincing. Also, our auto industry in Indiana is one of the biggest in the USA. While it didn't stop the bankruptcy, what it essentially did was the difference between doing a Thelma & Louise going off the cliff and crashing at the bottom or putting a parachute on the back of the car and floating down slowly in an orderly manner. It allowed them to adjust.



They slowed down. They still went into bankruptcy, they formulated that and then they came back up. GM has paid back their loans. I don't think there's any question that it saved jobs. Toyota is getting ready to call back. That's the auto bailout. I just don't think the people realized how the fingers and arteries of this country spread out into the suppliers.

HPI: How about the stimulus?

Ellsworth: This country was on the verge of a depression. Everybody agreed we needed to do something. Nobody wanted to spend that much

money. But look at what it did. A third of that - and most people don't bring this up, they talk about the \$780 billion - were tax cuts that went right back to American citizens. I have no problem giving tax cuts back to businesses. A third of it was propping up the states, including Indiana. It was keeping uninsured benefits, health care benefits. A third was projects. Nobody is going to argue against tax cuts. Nobody is going to argue against keeping police and fire-fighters on the job. You might disagree with the projects, but I heard a lot of people agreeing with passing out the checks. It definitely created jobs. Who knows how many it created? It was nothing we wanted to do. A lot of people



complained that it wasn't big enough.

HPI: And TARP?

Ellsworth: Again, we have to put this in context.

This was when President Bush came to Congress and said the economy was going off the cliff and we had to do something to prop it up. That's pretty convincing. My constituents had all their 401ks, all of their investments, in peril. What I started to do was call people back home. I called people who work in the financial world right back home in Terre Haute and Evansville. They said this thing was more critical than we knew. I trust those people. I didn't call one soul on Wall Street. I called people in downtown Evansville. When small businesses couldn't get loans, I was getting calls every day. They were locked up, frozen up, and that was costing jobs. That's what they have me come here to do, and that's to make decisions. I try to find people back in the state who are directly affected. They gave me good advice on that.

HPI: It's been a tough year listening to the information and the disinformation in a polarized atmosphere. It's been very tough to navigate. I can imagine it's been very tough for you as a Member and now a statewide Senate candidate. How have you personally gone through this minefield?

Ellsworth: This is something you're going to ask me anyway: Am I running away from being a congressman? Absolutely not. The first time I called you I was sitting in my sheriff's office. I did that for 24 years and eight months, and when you've spent almost half your life, it's in your blood. Think about what I did in my three and a half years in Congress. I never asked anybody what their politics was when I was sheriff. I never asked if they were rich or poor, black or white. I just went out and tried to resolve their problems. I didn't take everything at face value. I separated people and interviewed them separately. I tried to get to the real story. If I had someone who came in and gave me one side of the story, I'd go find someone on the other side. It's like an investigation. It's trying to get down to the truth and make a decision. If that means going against my party, I will. Cap-and-trade was a great example. The President of the United States called me and said, 'Can you vote with us?' I said, 'Absolutely not. It penalizes us.' To me, this isn't about party, it's what's right for the people in my state and country. So my law enforcement background, looking at these things like an investigation, looking for the truth, is a good thing and actually benefits me in this job.

HPI: There has been political speculation on whether you would like to have President Obama come back and campaign.

Ellsworth: "If the President of the United States - Republican or Democrat - wants to come to Indiana, I'd welcome him. I'd love to show a Republican president or a

Democratic president around Indiana. I accompanied the President up to Elkhart on one of his first trips talking about the RV and auto industries. When you see something first hand, see the looks on the faces, that hits home. I've not had any discussions with the White House about the President coming in and campaigning for me. This isn't about endorsements or people coming in for a visit. It's about two candidates and their stories. That's what they vote for, the names on the ballot. I want to win this because people think I'm the best to represent them. They'll make that call in November.

HPI: Afghanistan has been a huge issue today. Is this a major concern for you?

Ellsworth: Absolutely. I was in Indy at a Blue Star event with families of people who have served. It drives home that we've have thousands of young men and women half way around the world fighting for our freedoms. When kids are taking shrapnel and losing their lives, that's the No. 1 thing in my book. Sure it is a concern. I think we went there for a reason. It was the right reason. Al Qaeda had used it as a safe haven and a staging area for attacks on our soil. One thing I stress is Afghanistan is kind of like people in recovery. You can't help people who don't want help. Soldiers and the Afghan government and the Afghan people are going to have to stand up. We can't do this forever. They have to be willing to train and take care of themselves. If that proves to be impossible, we may have to hand it back to them.

HPI: You've been quoted recently that Sen. Bayh asked you to run for the seat. Can you put that in perspective?

Ellsworth: He encouraged me to think about running. I found out about it that Monday (Feb. 15). I was just beginning my 18-townhall tour and it was right after the first one. One of my aide's Blackberry buzzed and said Politico was reporting that Bayh was going to resign. We all kind of chuckled. Then about an hour after the second town hall we heard he had a press conference scheduled and we knew that was a tell tale sign. I'm sure he was calling a lot of folks to tell about his decision. During that call he encouraged me to think about running. I finally decided on Friday morning about 8:30 during a phone call with my wife, we decided to do it and take myself off the ballot in the congressional race. I'd be proud to have Sen. Bayh campaign with me in this state. We really haven't talked about a schedule like that yet. I think he'll be supportive. I will certainly ask him.

HPI: Do you like where your campaign is at this point?

Ellsworth: Certainly. But I can't always campaign. I have to stay here and protect Hoosiers. There's just not enough time in the day. I'm very confident and comfortable where we're at. ❖



Bauer claims victory in showdown with IEDC

By **BRITTANY BROWNRIGG**

INDIANAPOLIS – House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer said today that information released by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation this week “shows we were right.”

Bauer discussed the letter he received from Commerce Secretary Mitch Roob Tuesday explaining the tax breaks that are being given to companies which establish jobs in the state with taxpayer funded incentives. Bauer said that the information shared with him was helpful, but that the information flow needs to continue and the secrecy needs to end.

“The report in itself shows that we were right,” Bauer said. “Things weren’t being reported correctly and not at all, so I hope this is a new day to have light shine on all our laws.”

In late May, WTHR-TV investigative report Bob Segall reported that up to 40 percent of all jobs IEDC had announced had gone unfilled.

Roob sent a “Dear Pat” letter to Bauer Tuesday discussing Indiana Economic Development Corporation “clawback” information on tax breaks and jobs creation. The letter came a day before Gov. Mitch Daniels chaired an IEDC board meeting in Roanoke, which did not draw media coverage.

In his letter, Roob explained, “Following a company’s commitment to locate in Indiana and hire Hoosiers, the IEDC finalizes the incentive contract which sets the ceiling for the amount of tax benefit a company is eligible to receive, While some projects commence immediately, others require years of construction before a company hires a permanent employee (IEDC does not count jobs created by construction). Clearly, there is no way for state government to guarantee the specific performance projections of companies that commit to do business in our state.”

Roob reminded Bauer that in 1994 he was the “primary sponsor” for the EDGE tax credit that is still the state’s most commonly used and effective economic development tool. “Your letter, however, expresses concern that

companies that have either not performed or underperformed are receiving state tax credits,” Roob said, adding that to provide the tax credits, the actual performance is reported to the Indiana Department of Revenue.

If a company misrepresents its performance data and claims tax incentives it has not earned, the company opens itself to a civil claim and/or criminal prosecution by the Indiana Attorney General.”

Roob said the agency secured 637 decisions by companies to locate projects in Indiana from 2005 through 2008. When the agency closed the books on 2009, it found 66 of those projects weren’t providing the jobs promised.

Roob said only \$13,000 in tax credits and about \$125,000 in training dollars were deemed unrecoverable from those projects.

Bauer explained that out of the 18 provisions that allow the government to provide assistance to businesses the report discussed three.

“I want to thank the beacon, as small as it was, of light shed by the administration, because we’ve been asking for information in many areas for quite some time,” Bauer said. “We did get some back from IEDC and it was based mainly on one particular incentive, the EDGE credit, which is a good one.”

Bauer said that the laws put in place were good but that it needs to be executed in a way that shows Hoosiers where their tax money is going. “I think many of the things we’ve done in a bipartisan way were good but they do not need to be kept secret and I’m glad we have a little light shining on this,” he said.

Bauer also discussed other places where he feels light needs to be shed. He specifically discussed education cuts and a study done by the Associated Press looking into the timeliness of food stamps.

“There seems to be a pattern throughout the whole administration on this,” Bauer said. “In this culture of silence it is not just in IEDC it is in every agency as I have tried to point out: Department of Education (and) FSSA. Is this a wall of secrecy, a veil of secrecy or a complete shroud?” Bauer asked. “This is taxpayer money and we need to know the facts.”

Bauer believes that there is money in the “clawback” process and it should be considered valuable.

“If you deal in trillions you don’t think millions are a big deal,” he said. “I deal in hundreds and I think thousands are a big deal.” ❖



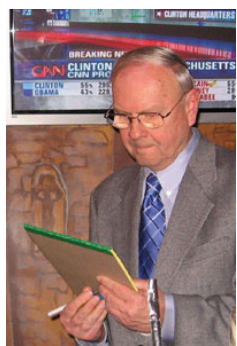
House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer claimed victory in a showdown with IEDC on “claw back” information he received the agency. He also described a culture of “secrecy” with the Daniels administration. (HPI Photo by Brittany Brownrigg)



Lugar remembers the Cold War days

By JACK COLWELL

WASHINGTON - Sen. Richard G. Lugar is reminding opponents of the New START Treaty about the Cold War days when Soviet missiles armed with 13,300 nuclear warheads were aimed at us.



No more aiming, thanks to past agreements. In fact, thousands of those warheads and missiles have been dismantled or destroyed through Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction programs.

The programs, carrying the name of Lugar, the six-term Republican senator from Indiana, brought deactivation of 7,519 strategic nuclear warheads from the old Soviet Union through 2009 and elimination of missiles, silos, submarines and bombers as well.

Lugar noted over breakfast in the Senate Dining Room that all this Nunn-Lugar success in making the world safer came over opposition from "groups on the far right that found it outlandish to trust agreements with the Russians."

Now, Lugar views the New START Treaty with Russia negotiated by President Obama as a "modest step" but a vital one for further reduction of nuclear arsenals and also for better relations as Russia's help is sought in containing threats from Iran and North Korea.

Modest step?

Some of those same "groups on the far right" that Lugar cited oppose ratification of the treaty, suggesting that it is a dangerous step and promoting instead the old "Star Wars" fantasy of a missile defense shield to ward off even a barrage of missiles rather than reducing arsenals and providing for strict verification and what Lugar calls "boots on the ground" inspections.

"Just madness," Lugar says of reliance on non-existent "Star Wars" technology to down thousands of missiles if they were again aimed at targets all around the United States.

At a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where Lugar is the top Republican, he recalled those bad, old days of Cold War, telling of "the chilling experience" of inspecting a deactivated Soviet missile silo where he found posted pictures of 10 American cities once targeted by the 10 nuclear warheads in the horrible place.

Lugar is all for development of a realistic shield that could perhaps down a missile fired by some rogue nation such as North Korea. And he says there is nothing in the treaty, not a word, that would prohibit this development, even though Russia continues to be suspicious about any shield deployment.

He prefers a treaty to eliminate hundreds of nuclear warheads now rather than count on some future "Star Wars" to somehow render them harmless much later, if ever.

The Foreign Relations Committee has held numerous hearings on the treaty, with testimony both in public and in private, from defense officials, treaty negotiators and top administration officials such as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Committee Chairman John Kerry and Lugar are in bipartisan agreement on a vote on the treaty by the committee before the August congressional recess, with hope of ratification by the full Senate yet this year.

Action is important, Lugar says, because the old START agreement expired last December and he wants to get back to those "boots on the ground" inspections.

So far, Lugar is the only Republican to support ratification. And it takes a two-thirds vote, 67 votes, for ratification.

Democrats and their two independent allies have 59 votes, so support from at least eight Republicans is needed.

Part of the problem with Republican support, Lugar knows, is reluctance to support a treaty negotiated by Obama. Also, there are the questions raised by those "groups on the far right" that distrust both the Russians and Obama.

But respect for Lugar's foreign policy expertise and his role in eliminating those warheads once aimed at us could help to sway enough support for ratification, at least in the "lame duck" session expected after the Nov. 2 election.

Also, Lugar's voting record as a solid supporter of conservative fiscal policy makes it difficult for treaty skeptics to portray him as some kind of ungrounded liberal.

And Lugar is likely to be around for a lot longer as top GOP spokesman on foreign affairs. He held a fund-raising breakfast Tuesday, works 12-hour legislative days at age 78 and shows every intent to run for a seventh term in 2012. He won with 87 percent of the vote in Indiana in 2006. ❖



Sen. Lugar and Ambassador Burns outside of Rosatom in Moscow in August 2007. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Federal programs deserve credit for economic uptick

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Horace Heliotrope sees the world in terms of persistent sadness. I'm not qualified to say he is clinically depressed, but he isn't a happy fellow.



Morton Marcus
Column

"The economy is as bad as we've seen in our lifetimes," Horace said to me as we stood in line at the super-store checkout.

"No," I said as cheerfully as I could. "The recession is over. The downward movement in the economy, the contraction in employment, output, and income is yesterday's story. That does not mean we are out

of the ditch or that we are back to where we were before the recession. Now is a time of slow upward movement, a period of recovery."

"Won't last," Horace intoned with a funereal certainty. "We going to have a double or triple dip; the worst is yet to come."

"I don't think so," I said.

"Inflation is coming," he announced to one and all without raising his voice.

"Maybe," I said, "but it may not be serious this time around."

"Our state economy is ruined; Indiana will never be the same," Horace proclaimed.

"Not so," I said. "Indiana has fared fairly well in this recession. The personal income figures released last week by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis show that Indiana had a 1.2 percent increase in the first quarter of this year compared to a 0.9 percent pick-up in the nation. That put us in 16th place among the 50 states.

"Furthermore," I continued as Horace unloaded his cart onto the checkout conveyor belt, "we also ranked 16th over the past year in personal income growth (2.6 percent for us, 1.9 for the nation). In fact, if you look at where we are now and where we started into the recession (2008 second quarter); we're just 0.4 percent off our peak level of personal income. The U.S. as a whole is 0.9 percent off its peak (not accounting for inflation). Not only is Indiana in

better shape than the country, but we also beat out Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, the other four states of the Great Lakes region."

"Since when did you join the Daniels' administration?" Horace asked.

"The facts are the facts," I said. "What we should be asking is: How did all this come about?"

"So," he asked, "how did all this come about?"

"The big, bad federal government," I responded.

"They pumped \$6.3 billion into the Indiana economy through higher unemployment compensation and increased Social Security and Medicare payments. This offset entirely the decline of workers' earnings from 2008 second quarter to the first quarter of this year."

"Yeah," Horace admitted, "but that wasn't the stimulus money."

"The fact is that it stimulated our economy," I said.

"You know, I'd like to see somebody put a label on every can of beans bought with unemployment compensation. I'd like to see every teacher's or fire fighter's paycheck stamped 'Stimulus Money Used Here'. How about detailing just how many dollars went to doctors, nurses, pharmacies, and hospitals in the state from added Medicare and Medicaid funds paid out by the federal government? Without knowing it, many thousands of Hoosiers kept their jobs because of added direct federal spending or added federal funds flowing through state and local governments."

"Just as I thought," Horace said as he paid for his purchases, "things could have been much worse, which means things were much worse than most of us realized."

"That's right," I agreed, stacking my purchases on the checkout counter. "Without the stimulus money and the on-going federal income and health maintenance funding, we would have been in a terrible mess."

Horace looked at me with his Bassett hound eyes. "No matter how well things seem to be going, you have to anticipate the lurking danger."

I returned his visual challenge and said, "At minimum, we should give Uncle Sam the credit he is due." ❖

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



Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal: My favorite e-mail of the 2010 election campaign so far came last week from the folks with U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth's campaign for the U.S. Senate. It touted internal polling results, fundraising numbers and other info meant to show that Ellsworth's race with Republican Dan Coats will be competitive. The data will explain "why we believe Hoosiers will be sending a sheriff to the Senate in November," wrote Ellsworth spokeswoman Liz Farrar. Now, what's funny to me is not the idea that the race will be competitive. I don't have a clear sense of that yet but assume that both parties and candidates are capable of raising enough money that either one will have a chance of victory. But I love that the people representing Ellsworth are acting as if he's not a two-term member of Congress. Ellsworth first went to Washington, D.C., after the 2006 election, when he defeated long-time incumbent Republican John Hostettler. Before that, Ellsworth did serve two terms as Vanderburgh County sheriff. But he's a member of the U.S. House right now -- not a sheriff. Being a congressman is his job. Certainly, his experience as a lawman is important but so is his time as a lawmaker. I'm really not trying to pick on Ellsworth. This kind of thing is not unique to his campaign. After all, the folks with the Coats campaign like to refer to the Republican as a former senator and a former ambassador. They don't call him a Washington lobbyist, which is the job he held just before he decided to move back to Indiana to run for the seat he vacated years ago. ❖

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette: Some critics said they were appalled that President Obama used his update to the nation on the Gulf oil spill last week to remind us that an over-reliance on oil carries many negative consequences, both inevitable and potential. But when better to focus on a problem than when a tragedy has captured our attention? Would Amber alerts have come into being without the anguished impetus of the parents of an abducted child? Flame-retardant baby clothes if children hadn't been burned? Shoulder straps in the back seats of cars if passengers hadn't been nearly cut in half by lap belts? Obama was right to link the oil spill disaster to the need for action, and the scolding from chronic complainers was off base. In fact, Washington can multitask. The president and congressional committees can put the screws to BP officials, force the creation of a claims fund and discuss restrictions on future deep-water drilling while at the same time working on an energy policy. Sen. Richard Lugar certainly thinks so. He has been discussing the outlines of a conservation- and efficiency-based approach to reducing fuel consumption for months (in fact, for years).

However, Lugar chose to formally present his version of a bill two weeks ago, amid unrelenting headlines and top-of-the-newscast coverage of the Gulf Coast scourge. The timing might have been coincidental, but the subsequent news coverage was not. Bill introductions -- especially bill introductions by a senator who is not the chairman of a committee that has jurisdiction over the issue -- are notoriously unattended. But because of the backdrop of the Gulf oil spill, Lugar's bill introduction pulled in a crowd. Obama even called Lugar last week with a "way-to-go" message. ❖

Rich James, Post-Tribune: You da man, Mitch. I don't know that you can save the Republican Party all by your lonesome, but at least you got the ball rolling last week. And it only took one sentence. You called for a "truce" on abortion and other social issues while the federal government focuses on tackling the nation's economic problems. Essentially, governor, you told fellow Republicans to cut the crap and focus on what ails the nation. And some of those Republicans -- the ones who embrace the issues of God, guns and gays -- are beside themselves. I knew you were right, Mitch, based on the reactions of U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, a fellow Hoosier, and former

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Since both are unofficially running for president, it isn't surprising how they reacted. Not surprising, but disconcerting. Unlike you, Mitch, the two Mikes put politics above policy. Pence last Sunday on CNN called Barack Obama "the most pro-abortion president in American history." I think that is a bit unfair for a couple of reasons: 1. He's not out campaigning for more abortions, but strongly believes in a woman's right to choose. 2. And the last I checked, abortion is legal. The Supreme Court said so. And if *Roe v. Wade* is ever overturned, Pence and Huckabee won't want to see what happens to this country. Pence blubbered on, saying, "I believe with all my heart that Republicans need to continue to fight for the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage with everything we've got in 2010 and in 2012." Sanctity of marriage? Since half of them end in divorce, perhaps Pence ought to go into the marriage counseling business. I'm not so sure that Pence believes what he said about "with all my heart." But when you are pandering to the religious right, I guess you have to use words like "heart" and "sanctity" and, well, you get the drift. Wouldn't it be great if we could get politicians out of the pulpit. Pence on Sunday did a tap dance around the question from CNN's Candy Crowley as to whether he agreed with Mitch Daniels' call for a truce. Rather than answer the question, Pence went on, saying, "To renew this nation, we must renew the institutions that strengthen her character. We must stand for the sanctity of life." Yeah, see how much bread that puts on the table. ❖





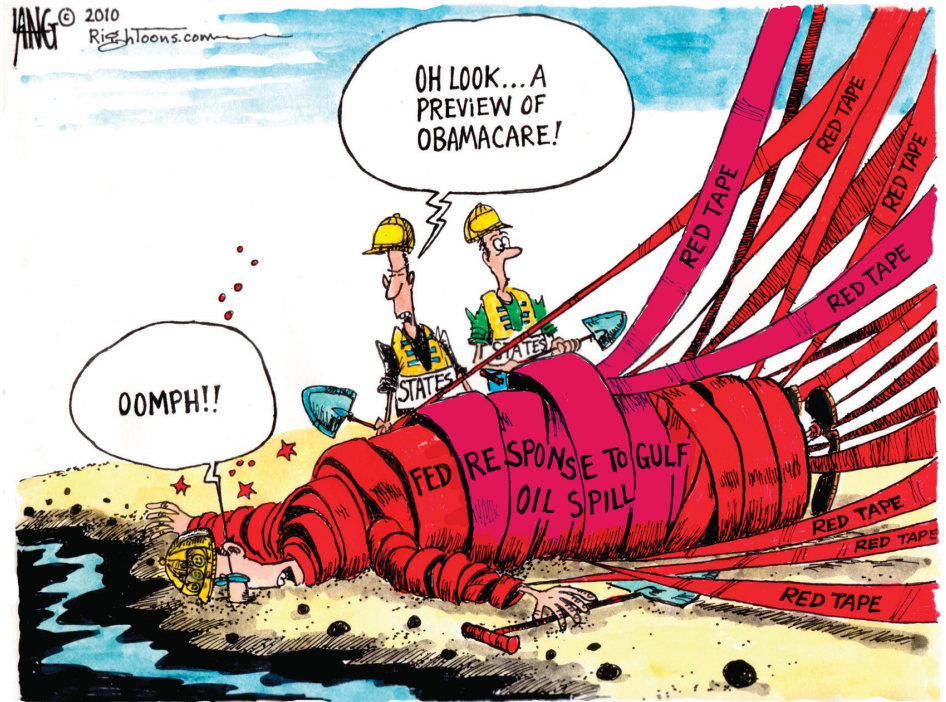
Allies embrace Gen. Petraeus

WASHINGTON - America's Afghan and international allies embraced the choice of Gen. David Petraeus to run the war in Afghanistan, hoping the architect of the Iraq surge will seamlessly pursue the strategy laid down by his predecessor and smooth over divisions that led to his dismissal (Associated Press). By naming Petraeus, President Barack Obama managed to replace Gen. Stanley McChrystal without derailing the mission at a critical juncture in the war, when casualties are rising and public support in the West is waning. Still, the jury is out on whether the counterinsurgency strategy that Petraeus used to turn around the Iraq war will show results in Afghanistan by July 2011, when Obama wants to begin withdrawing U.S. troops. The split between the U.S. civilian and military team in Afghanistan has not disappeared with McChrystal's departure. Those fissures, laid bare in disparaging remarks to Rolling Stone magazine, led to McChrystal's dismissal Wednesday.



Bayh says Obama had no choice

WASHINGTON - President Obama had no choice but to dismiss Gen. Stanley McChrystal for his "obvious insubordination," but the change in command won't affect the mission in Afghanistan, Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., said Wednesday (Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). He said Obama's decision to replace McChrystal with Gen. David Petraeus as the U.S. military commander in Afghani-



stan will provide "seamless continuity." "He's up to speed on the situation, won't need a period of time to get educated about what's going on in the country," Bayh said of Petraeus. "Given his lengthy experience with counterinsurgency, most recently in Iraq, he's ideally suited to most effectively carry out the mission." Bayh, a member of the committee that recommended the Senate approve McChrystal's nomination to oversee the war in Afghanistan a year ago, said he was surprised at the comments McChrystal and his aides made but doesn't think they will have lasting reverberations. "When there are disparaging remarks made about members of your own government or other leaders, it doesn't help in dealing with foreign officials. But I think this will be viewed in hindsight as a minor tempest in a teapot that will be quickly forgotten," he said.

Donnelly comments on Petraeus

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly issued the following state-

ment in response to this afternoon's announcement that Army General David H. Petraeus is taking direct command of U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan: "General David Petraeus is a man of tremendous demonstrated talent and I believe Americans can have confidence that we are sending the finest military officer we have to lead a difficult but crucial mission. I have met General Petraeus on several occasions and he has impressed me with his intellect, thoughtfulness, and ability to inspire and lead our men and women serving in harm's way. General Petraeus proved his ability to succeed in Iraq, and I cannot think of anyone else more deserving of our support and trust than he."

42 companies in had state clawbacks

SOUTH BEND - There have been 42 companies found to be out of compliance with EDGE requirements since the program started in 1994, Commerce Secretary Mitch Roob said (Allen, South Bend Tribune). Recov-



ering those credits after a company closes has been difficult at times. The state has tried to "claw back" more than \$10.5 million in EDGE credits, according to the IEDC. The agency is still pursuing more than \$5 million in payments and has written off nearly \$1.6 million.

Niezgodski talks of new labor rules

SOUTH BEND - On July 1, state labor officials are expected to start the process of clearly defining guidelines and procedures for investigating complaints about worker misclassification across Indiana, according to State Rep. David Niezgodski (D-South Bend). "For years, worker misclassification has victimized many hard-working men and women across Indiana, as well as our state's taxpayers, simply because some bad apples do not want to live up to their obligations," Niezgodski said. "This year, the Indiana General Assembly passed a plan that starts us on the road to establishing a process that will enable the state to respond quickly and efficiently when a case of misclassification is reported." Misclassification takes place when employers treat their workers as independent contractors, rather than waged or salaried employees. Designation as an "independent contractor" means that workers - rather than their employers - must pay for health insurance, unemployment, Social Security and payroll-related taxes. "When the business community asked the Legislature this year for a one-year delay in instituting increased premiums to help make Indiana's unemployment insurance trust fund solvent again, many of us sought something in return: recognizing the ongoing problem that worker misclassification has caused in our state, and doing something about it," said Niezgodski, who played a crucial role in passage of legislation

(Public Law 110) that included both provisions. Starting on July 1, the Indiana Department of Labor must begin to develop guidelines for investigating worker misclassification complaints.

Evidence against Pabey dismissed

EAST CHICAGO - Prosecutors want to present conspiracy statements at Monday's corruption trial for East Chicago Mayor George Pabey and a city department supervisor while prohibiting "hearsay" statements that could support the defense (Times of Northwest Indiana). According to Wednesday's filing by prosecutors, Pabey spoke with the owner of a construction and landscaping company about covering up work East Chicago employees did while on city time on a house in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Pabey allegedly voiced concern to the business owner about Camacho telling others of the work being done at the home and of allowing city employees to drive city-marked vehicles to the property. Court records allege Pabey asked the owner to do some work at the house so that city employees would not be seen at the site. Pabey's attorney, Scott King, and William Padula, one of Camacho's attorneys, said the filings were routine. Prosecutors believe Pabey will try to present evidence "... that Camacho, while outside the Miller residence and speaking to an East Chicago city employee, stated that George Pabey was on vacation in Puerto Rico at the time, and that if Pabey knew what Camacho was doing, Camacho would be in big trouble." King said that efforts to remove that evidence would be "addressed substantially with the court."

Voters testify in Murphy trial

MUNCIE - Five voters on

Wednesday gave differing accounts of what role, if any, Monte Murphy played in their casting of absentee ballots in the November 2007 city election (Muncie Star Press). Today, six jurors will likely wade through that testimony when they begin deliberations in the Delaware Circuit Court 3 trial of Murphy, a Muncie City Council member charged with five counts of receiving a ballot. A local grand jury indicted Murphy on the Class D felony charges, each carrying a standard 18-month prison term, in May 2009.

Four similar charges were dismissed by prosecutors shortly before this week's trial began. Only one of the five voters called to the stand Wednesday by Ian McLean -- a deputy attorney general acting as prosecutor in the case -- testified that Murphy ever touched her 2007 absentee ballot. And that witness, 73-year-old Henrietta Williams, said the city councilman had done no more than place her ballot, already sealed in an envelope, in her own mailbox, at her request. "(Murphy) came by and I said, 'Monte, put this in the mailbox for me,'" Williams said. As for the other witnesses: •Darnetta Abram, 38, maintained she had mailed her own absentee ballot in the 2007 city election. "After I voted I did put it in the mail, at the downtown post office," she told jurors, adding that Murphy, a longtime friend, had earlier provided her with an application to receive the absentee ballot. Abram also acknowledged signing an affidavit -- between the 2007 and 2008 general elections, she said -- that made Murphy her "attorney in fact," making him eligible to handle her ballots in some circumstances. The witness said Murphy "gave (that document) to me and I signed it. He took it with him."