



Weighing a GOP Tsunami

Democrats fret about enthusiasm, but there are differences from the 1994 wave

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** and **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

FRENCH LICK - To a man, whether it was Democratic National Chairman Tim Kaine, or Indiana Chairman Dan Parker, or 8th CD Chair Tony Long, to Butch Morgan in the 2nd, there was optimism about the fate of the three Democratic U.S. House seats in play here in Indiana: "I think we'll hold all three," was how it went last weekend.

This despite a shudder from national Democrats in a Politico story late last week where unnamed sources and pollsters fretted about losing the U.S. House as a virtually fait accompli. That came on the heels of the worst housing numbers in 15

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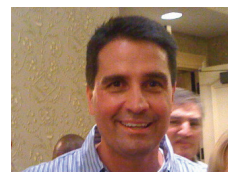
Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker (left) chats with Democratic National Chairman Tim Kaine at the French Lick Springs Resort Saturday. Kaine told Democrats they must close the "enthusiams" gap. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Evan Bayh's future

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

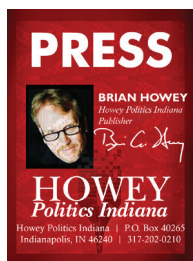
FRENCH LICK - There was near panic in Washington at the end of last week as Democratic operatives and pollsters fretted about losing congressional majorities in the wake of bad housing and GDP numbers. But here at the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association, the mood was upbeat, almost sanguine. For in these tough times - cue the music - Evan Bayh was there.

Because he was there, over parts of three days, the overwhelming sense among former staff, party chairs and operatives is he will seek a return to the governorship in 2012. Officially, Bayh was



"I would like to thank Evan Bayh - I think - for this opportunity."

- U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth, joking about his Senate candidacy at the IDEA convention





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U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh visits with former aides Steve Campbell (left) and Les Miller at the IDEA conference in French Lick on Friday night. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

saying nothing overt about jumping into what will be an open seat. "I'll make a decision and let people know sometime after the holidays," Bayh said, reiterating what he told HPI in June.

But in private conversations with key Democrats like Marion County Chairman Ed Treacy, the message was clear: They expect him to run. St. Joseph County Chairman Butch Morgan said Bayh asked him if he had any old gubernatorial campaign items and added, "Don't throw them away."

Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker urged caution, saying that Bayh has not made a final decision. And he observed, "The only reason Evan Bayh would want to run is to finish something he didn't get done."

On that front, there is always work to do on "Gov. Bayh's" most passionate concern: education.

Even more telling was who wasn't there and what wasn't happening. Lake County Sheriff Rogelio Dominguez, who orchestrated a statewide greet and listen tour in 2009 didn't attend. Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott Jr, were there, but neither had the prerequisite hospitality suite that an emerging gubernatorial hopeful would have had. McDermott

told HPI his campaign usually throws one big downstate event a year and he hosted a reggae party at the Indiana Democratic Convention last June. All three potential contenders are on record as saying they would jump on the Bayh bandwagon and opt for a spot on the ticket if Bayh returned.

There are U.S. Reps. Baron Hill and Brad Ellsworth who would also be potential contenders, particularly if Ellsworth loses to Dan Coats in November. Ellsworth would emerge from a loss with much greater statewide name recognition and a great deal of goodwill with Democrats who saw him make one of the most arduous vote ever on health reform. "He voted for one of the toughest issues ever to face a congressman with his butt on the line," McDermott said of Ellsworth. "He's risked his entire career. I respect him greatly for that."

The reason for hope in these gathering tough times is - cue the music - Evan Bayh has never lost a race as a candidate. His two closest encounters were his first two: a 53.3 to 45.4 percent victory over Republican Rob Bowen in the 1986 secretary of state race, and a 53.2 to 46.8 percent win over Lt. Gov. John Mutz in the 1988 gubernatorial race. That 6 percent victory was even more impressive



considering that U.S. Sen. Dan Quayle was on the national ticket that year.

Since then, it's been "Landslide Evan." He won his reelection bid 62 to 36.9 percent against Attorney General Linley Pearson in 1992, a 63.7 to 34.8 percent U.S. Senate win over Paul Helmke in 1998, and a 61.6 to 37.3 percent reelection victory over Republican Marvin Scott in 2004.

Bayh is also a realist, and after Republican Scott Brown won the Massachusetts Senate race in January the senator warned of a "further catastrophe" if Democrats ignored the lessons. "There's going to be a tendency on the part of our people to be in denial about all of this," Bayh told ABC News. "If you lose Massachusetts and that's not a wake-up call, there's no hope of waking up." Less than a month later, Bayh announced his Senate retirement.

McDermott, who is also Lake County Democratic chairman, called the anticipation surrounding Bayh "a natural assumption."

"I have not spoken with him about it and he has not told me he is running," McDermott said. "When you look at his financing and approvals that's safe to assume. He's a successful two-term governor and two-term senator and he's got \$11 million in his war chest. He could run now and not have to raise much more money."

There's another factor that McDermott sees with a potential Bayh candidacy, and that's his staff. "There's a lot of scared people," McDermott said. "Those close to him are losing their jobs at the end of the year. Many of them have been with him for a long time."

Bayh told HPI last June that at age 55 when he leaves the Senate, he still has a chance to be able to "fashion a second career" but quickly added, "I love public service. I find it incredibly rewarding to help other people."

He also noted that he prefers executive power over legislative with the qualifier "don't read too much into this."

"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." Bayh also noted that Senate Democrats were doing things "that if I were calling the shots, we would not be doing. The caucus system really works against independence."

Other than Ellsworth this year and Hill in 1990, the potential Democratic gubernatorial candidates haven't run statewide, don't have Bayh's war chest, or his ability to draw independent and Republican voters. A Hamilton Campaign Poll released in January showed Bayh's fav/unfavs stood at 74/23 percent, including 89 percent favorable among Democrats and 61 percent among Republicans. A Daily Kos/Research2000 poll taken in February showed Bayh leading Dan Coats in the Senate race 55-35 percent, but he had a 64-24 percent lead with independent voters while taking 26 percent of Republicans. Bayh's fav/unfavs were 61/33 percent. (Publisher's Note: the Daily Kos is suing Research2000 and the polling firm has taken down its website and doesn't appear to be polling).

So Democratic partisans see in Bayh a trusted brand that gives the party its best chance at getting back the governorship after eight years under Gov. Mitch Daniels. They were faced with the specter of U.S. Rep. Mike Pence possibly entering the governor's race, where he would likely be heavily favored without Bayh in the race. With Bayh poised to get in, Pence faces a tough choice of abandoning a station in House leadership that would be greatly enhanced should Republicans win a majority on Nov. 3.

Perhaps the ultimate draw for both Bayh and Pence are their designs on the White House, where a governorship provides a sturdier springboard than a seat in Congress (Barack Obama was only the third member of Congress to win a presidential race since 1920). If you play out that scenario, an Obama reelection victory in 2012 means an open White House in 2016.

One other historical footnote: If Bayh were to run and win the governor's race in 2012, he would become Indiana's first three-term governor. Gov. Henry F. Schricker served two separate four-year terms between 1941 and 1953. ❖

Tsunami, from page 1

years (including a 28.8 percent falloff in Indiana home sales) and a Friday U.S. Commerce Department report that said the economy grew at a paltry 1.6 percent GDP clip in the second quarter. The blip to this Republican tsunami scenario was that the Reuters/Ipsos poll found that 46 percent of registered U.S. voters would likely vote for a Republican candidate, while 45 percent said they would vote

for a Democrat. The Real Clear Politics generic composite showed a tightening with the Republicans leading Democrats 46.1 to 41.6 percent.

If there was anyone how knows a wave when he sees one, it's U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh who compared the current dynamic to 1980 and 1994. "It's right up there," he said today in MSNC's Morning Joe. To expect a big change in the next 8 or 9 weeks, "That's impossible," Bayh said.

"It's a tough cycle," Chairman Kaine told the Indi-



ana Democratic Editorial Association luncheon on Saturday." It's a tough time, nobody's happy, but we've got to keep going." Kaine then noted the "energy gap" and added, "Polling shows that's shrinking. It was 30 percent. That gap is starting to shrink but it's going to be tough."

The top Democratic campaign official in the House of Representatives is confident that his party will maintain a majority in the chamber this fall, including keeping all three competitive races in Indiana. U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md. and chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, dismissed the growing buzz that Republicans are poised to take over the House, as a nascent economic recovery sputters and unemployment remains well above nine percent. Van Hollen said that despite voter disquiet and anger toward Washington, three factors will help Democrats stay in power: Americans don't want to return to the Bush administration policies that Van Hollen said Republicans are promoting; the Tea Party movement has helped nominate Republicans who are 'way out of the mainstream'; and, unlike the 1994 wave that swept Democrats out of the House majority, this time around, "No one will be caught by surprise. We have been preparing," Van Hollen said. "I'm confident Democrats will retain control of the House, which will allow us to move the country forward rather than go back."

Van Hollen's upbeat attitude also applies to Indiana, where Democratic Reps. Baron Hill (9th CD), Joe Donnelly (2nd CD) and state Rep. Trent Van Haaften (8th CD) are in tight contests. "We're taking none of those races for granted," Van Hollen said. "They're all going to be competitive races. But I think at the end of the day the Democrats will win."

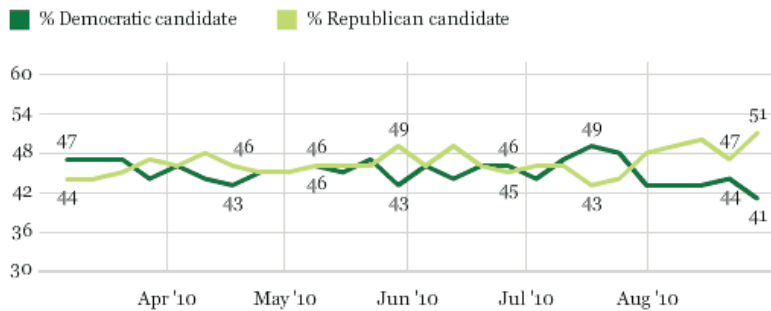
Historic Gallup generic

Then came the "historic" Gallup numbers on Monday.

Republicans lead by 51 to 41 percent among registered voters in Gallup's weekly tracking of 2010 congressional voting preferences. The 10 percent lead is the GOP's largest so far this year and the largest in Gallup's history of tracking the midterm generic ballot for Congress. The results - surveyed Aug. 23-29 as part of Gallup Daily track-

Candidate Preferences in 2010 Congressional Elections

Based on registered voters



Results based on weekly averages of Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP

ing - revealed Republican leads of 6, 7, and 10 points this month, all higher than any previous midterm Republican advantage in Gallup's history of tracking the generic ballot, which dates to 1942. Before this year, the highest such gap was five points, measured in June 2002 and July 1994.

As for the enthusiasm gap that Kaine talked about, that ballooned out to 25 percent - 50

percent saying they were "very enthusiastic" - favoring the GOP in the Gallup poll.

In addition, Dr. Larry Sabato's "Crystal Ball" on Wednesday said: "The statehouses will provide the third leg of the Republicans' 2010 victory. We have long suggested the GOP would gain a net +6 governorships. We now believe they will win +8. This boon to the GOP for redistricting will be enhanced by a gain of perhaps 300 to 500 seats in the state legislatures and the addition of Republican control in 8 to 12 legislative chambers around the country."

Cutting to the chase

"I'm going to cut right to the chase," U.S. Rep. Baron Hill told the luncheon Saturday. "The Republicans are more excited than Democrats are in this election. That's the reality. All the polls are showing that by a 20-percent margin Republicans going to polls on Election Day is better than Democrats. I've been doing this for over 20 years. After we leave here, it's time for us to roll up our sleeves and go to work and close that margin."

U.S. Senate nominee Brad Ellsworth joked, "I would like to thank Evan Bayh - I think - for this opportunity." There was a painful laugh through the luncheon and Ellsworth reiterated he was kidding. "It is an opportunity. Trent (Van Haaften) and I got into this in February. Some people plan for years and years. We are under a time gun. I need all of you to help, and to talk, and to get those people out to the polls."

Both parties were spinning questionable internal polls in local races in the vacuum of credible media surveys. An American Action Forum poll by Ayres McHenry & Associates showed Rep. Donnelly with a 46-44 percent lead over Republican Jackie Walorski late last week. Chairman Morgan called it a "push" poll and said that Donnelly's internal numbers have consistently showed him with a 9 to



15 percent lead.

On Monday, the Washington Post profiled Ellsworth as a "symbol" of the falling Democratic stars from 2006 and cited an unnamed poll showing that he had crept to within 11 percent of Republican Dan Coats. Indiana Republican Party spokesman Trevor Foughty described the numbers in the Post article as pushed. "The numbers are actually discouraging for Ellsworth," Foughty said. "If they ask a number of negative questions on Dan Coats and then ask who you're going to vote for and the best Ellsworth can do is come within 11 percent, that's discouraging for him."

But Donnelly's campaign was acting as if the tsunami buoys were sending out red alerts. He began running another TV ad drawing distance between him and the radioactive (at least in Indiana) House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The 30-second TV ad slams the "Pelosi energy tax." It was over the same Cap-and-Trade vote that Rep. Hill has been ardently defending down in the 9th CD. Kaine called Donnelly's tactic "crazy" earlier this month. He didn't mention Donnelly on Saturday and Donnelly wasn't in French Lick.

"I'm so proud to be here with you because I know what you're made of," Kaine said. "The other side - after losing in '06 and '08 - they're hungry. I do believe we'll have great victories and great victories here in Indiana."

Kaine offered a history lesson. "Since Theodore Roosevelt, the party in power loses 28 house and four senate seats" in the first mid-term. "That's the average. We have to acknowledge we're not in average times. We have to assume we're running into a head wind. We're running an uphill race. Uphill is what we do. Running into a head wind is what we do. We campaign tough, we win tough and we govern tough. Get out on the street, roll up sleeves and make things happen. Walk during the dog days. All we have to do is do what we know how to do. We've got to make the choice clear between moving ahead and going backward."

There is a new twist in the equation besides any lost element of surprise. Organizing for America - President Obama's political wing - is in the process of opening up 11 field offices around the state. That is unprecedented in a mid-term election. "We're grassroots folks," said Kaine, the former Virginia governor. "I came up where it was super grassroots. We're making the heavy investments and building the people infrastructure. OFA is engaged around the mid-terms. We don't need to tell you who the reliable Democratic voters are. In 2008 there were many first time



voters. We registered most of them. There's a 30 percent likelihood of them voting in mid-term if we don't do anything different. OFA began in June starting to contact these first time voters. If we can get the 30 percent to 40 percent, that's a million new voters. That's breaking that pattern."

John Spears, state director for OFA, said that in 94 degree heat last weekend "hundreds" of Hoosier OFA volunteers knocked on 20,000 doors and made 6,000 phone calls across

the state. "We are mobilizing our volunteers and reminding them of their polling locations," said Spears. "We have a motivated volunteer base. We are surpassing our goals."

Spears noted that OFA grew out of the Obama For America organization during the 2008 campaign. "We found in a survey that our volunteers wanted to stay engaged and involved. For the first year and a half they supported the president's legislative agenda." That has now transitioned back to a political campaign. "I'm confident we can be successful," Spears said.

On calling the Tsunami

Howey Politics Indiana began publishing in August 1994. We began sensing that wave a month earlier. At the IDEA convention that year, U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton gave an impassioned keynote that "all politics is local; all politics is presidential" and talked as if a "curtain" was coming down between him and his constituents. He chastised Democrats for abandoning President Clinton.

In early September 1994, Republican Minority Leader Newt Gingrich launched his "Contract With America." And then in the Sept. 21 edition of Howey Politics, we moved the 2nd CD (David McIntosh vs. Joe Hogsett), the 4th CD (Rep. Jill Long vs. Mark Souder), and the 8th CD (Rep. Frank McCloskey vs. John Hostettler) into "tossup" based on internal polling we had accessed. All three Democrats lost and Hamilton had the closest call of his illustrious career.

HPI has not come to a "wave" assessment at this point, though there is considerable evidence pointing to such a dynamic. But there are important differences. First, multiple polls show congressional Republicans faring as bad as or worse than congressional Democrats. There have also been several Republican Members (Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska the latest) who have lost primary battles. So there is a broader "throw the bums out" mentality at play split between the two parties. Obviously, Democratic majorities



point to the brunt of this falling on their shoulders.

Second, unlike Newt Gingrich in 1994, who had a consistent clarion call to arms that resonated with the average voter, House Minority Leader John Boehner has at times been a communications disaster, as was the case during his July appearance on NBC's Meet the Press. Case in point: Boehner has been in Indiana campaigning for Walorski, Todd Young and Larry Buchson in almost clandestine fashion, creeping in under cover. The press usually finds out about his visits after they happen. Newt loved to perform before the press and anybody who would listen and record. That's a big difference.

House Republicans would do much better on that front if they made Indiana's Mike Pence the chief spokesman and armed him with a 2010 version of the Contract.

Third, in 1994 Democrats had no unified counter to the wave. OFA is such a counter this time that the Clinton White House didn't offer embattled Democrats. OFA works in a similar vein as the historic Obama campaign did in 2008: efficient, technologically cutting edge, well populated and motivated. The 2008 Obama campaign was consistently questioned and under-estimated. We see in OFA the potential of cutting into GOP gains. We also see in President Obama someone with a long view, as he did during the 2008 primary battles and particularly after he lost New Hampshire to Hillary Clinton, potentially short-circuiting his historic Iowa caucus victory. Obama and his team of suits (David Axelrod and David Plouffe) knew this kind of political dynamic was likely during these mid-terms, given the seismic legislative agenda and harrowing economics. They appear to have a political plan for this cycle, albeit one not plastered on their foreheads.

Fourth, unlike 1994, Hill, Donnelly and to a lesser extent Trent Van Haaften have maintained significant money advantages. In the '94 tsunami, the Republican challengers all outraced the Democratic incumbents by Election Day. Not only have we yet to see that this cycle, but the DNC holds a significant money advantage over the RNC to date. That could still change.

Fifth, there are two months left and as Rex Early might say, "Shit happens." This can cut either way, as it did in 1998 when Republicans expected "wave" gains as the Clinton impeachment gathered steam. It didn't happen.

Finally, we need to see a continuum of the kind of generic spread that Gallup offered on Monday. If we see the trend lines continue to widen as opposed to the undulation we've witnessed this summer, that would lead to a wave forecast. Perhaps even a historic one along the lines seen back in the 1870s and 1880s.

"We have to limit our losses," Bayh said, suggesting Democrats pass a pay roll exemption.

For Democrats, all is not lost, yet. For Republicans, it's much too early to uncork the champagne. ❖



Ellsworth and Coats spar over Gitmo, but is it a 'game changer?'

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FRENCH LICK - For more than a week, the Dan Coats campaign hinted that it was about ready to exploit a vote made by U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth, with sources suggesting it would be a game-changer.

On Friday, Coats' first TV ad of the fall cycle - "Judgment" - began airing. Coats peered into the camera and talked about becoming ambassador to Germany on Sept. 10, 2001. And then he said, "My opponent voted to close Guantanamo and move terrorists to the U.S. where they could have the same legal rights as Americans. As your Senator, I'll fight the move. I'm Dan Coats and I approve this message."

The first media take on this was an Associated Press story that trained its sights on the TV dynamic: "Coats taking campaign to airwaves, while Ellsworth pulls ads."

But just before the HPI Daily Wire went out Friday morning, an animated Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker was on the line. "This is a complete game-changer," Parker declared.

"This ad completely highlights the hypocrisy of Dan Coats and why he is running this ad. He made money from a firm that represents terrorists at Guantanamo that are from Yemen. The hypocrisy here is unbelievable.





We've got a man who worked at a lobbying firm who made money off of defending and trying to send home terrorists who are housed at Guantanamo Bay," Parker said of King & Spaulding, where Coats worked as a lobbyist. "This ad alone exposes the complete farce of the Dan Coats candidacy."

Parker cited: Coats' second firm, King & Spaulding, lauded their representation of Yemeni detainees at Guantanamo Bay. "King & Spaulding represented six men from Yemen imprisoned without charges at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba," the firm's 2009 Annual Review reported. "We filed habeas corpus petitions in United States District Court in the District of Columbia. Hearings for three of the men began on June 22, 2009." (King & Spaulding Annual Review, 2009).

Parker also cited this Atlanta Business Chronicle story on Jan. 16, 2009: The detainees' attorneys - John Chandler and Beth Tanis - joined King and Spaulding while Dan Coats worked at the firm, doing pro bono representation on behalf of six Yemenese detainees.

The Coats campaign returned volley. It pointed out that on June 18, 2009, Congressman Ellsworth voted twice against an effort to bar the use of taxpayer dollars to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. (H.R. 2847, Vote #360, 6/18/09; H.R. 2847, Vote #361, 6/18/09). Ellsworth voted against an effort to reject the transfer or release of Guantanamo Bay detainees into the United States or its territories in October 2009. (H.R. 2647, Vote #769, 10/8/09). On October 15, 2009, Congressman Ellsworth voted against an effort to prevent Guantanamo Bay detainees from being brought into the United States for prosecution or incarceration. (H.R. 2892, Vote #783, 10/15/09).

The Coats campaign noted, "The following day the New York Times reported, "The House voted Thursday to allow detainees being held at the Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba to be transferred to the United States, but only to stand trial. Passage of the measure, attached to a \$42.8 billion appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security, was a step forward for President Obama's efforts to close the Guantanamo prison."

Ellsworth scheduled three pressers today in Indianapolis, South Bend and Crown Point after conducting one on Monday in Jeffersonville. He blasted the Coats campaign. "The votes they cite are procedural votes," Ellsworth said. "That's typical for Washington insiders. They cite gotcha votes so they can make commercials like this."

Ellsworth said that it is "patently false" that he voted to close Guantanamo. He said he was opposed to closing Gitmo "until the president brings a plan and how the detainees would be tried and where they would go."

In an ironic twist, Ellsworth called the Gitmo issue "a distraction. Jobs and the economy are what we need

to be talking about." And he blasted Coats for "making a profit" from King & Spaulding while it represented Yemen, describing it as an "al Qaeda breeding ground" as well as Planned Parenthood.

Despite the sagging economy and job numbers, could the U.S. Senate race in Indiana really turn on Gitmo?

What the Coats campaign appeared to be doing was trying to inoculate itself from some of the lobbying charges that Ellsworth will be employing this fall. They've cloaked it in a national security argument, banking on the fact that Gitmo detainees may be housed in neighboring Illinois and that they will be afforded the same legal rights as Americans. As one Coats source said, on both counts Ellsworth is "dangerously naïve."

This morning, the Coats campaign announced more than 100 members of the law enforcement community including sheriffs, patrol officers and prosecutors have joined together to support the campaign. In a web video, Wayne County Sheriff Matt Strittmatter, Co-Chair of the Law Enforcement Coalition, says, "As our Senator, Dan Coats will fight the extremely dangerous attempt by President Obama and the Democratic controlled Congress to transport terrorist detainees from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States – and house them right next door to Indiana in Thomson, Illinois. If this happens, the terrorists could have the same legal rights as you and me."

The Ellsworth campaign produced Ret. Air Force Col. Morris D. Davis, the chief prosecutor for the Guantanamo Military Commission before retiring in 2008, on Tuesday to refute the Coat charges. Davis echoed the "hypocrisy" angle, noting that "It would be like Co. Sanders saying he was a vegetarian and he hates chickens."

Was anything false in the Coats ads?

No, Davis said, who added that in nine years, there had been only four trials, two convictions and those two are "now back home walking free."

What also emerged was the two King & Spaulding attorneys provided their representation of the Yemese pro bono, and worked in the firm's Atlanta office, whereas Coats worked in Washington. It stretched the notion that Coats had lined his pockets with "millions" of dollars the Democrats alleged.

Is it a game-changer?

We don't sense a dramatic turn of events in a race where Ellsworth has trailed anywhere from 15 to 21 points. A poll referenced in the Washington Post cited internal Democratic numbers claiming Ellsworth was down 11 points, but Republicans maintain the numbers were pushed.

The exchange could end up in TV or radio ads for either side, but at this point, calling it a "game changer" for either candidate is a stretch. This election will ultimately be driven by the economy and jobs. ❖



Air wars begin in CD races; Skillman hits the campaign trail

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The air wars have begun!

Not only has Dan Coats gone up in the U.S. Senate race, but both sides are trading shots in the 2nd and 9th CDs, while Dr. Tom Hayhurst was the first to go up in the 3rd CD last week.

U.S Senate: Flipping and flopping

Democratic nominee Brad Ellsworth spoke at the

IDEA luncheon on Saturday and he defended his vote on health reform. "We should know our job is to do the job of the people and do our homework," Ellsworth said. "We knew if we took the majorities and President in 2008 it was our responsibility to work. On health care, we talked about all the different things that should get done. When we took those majorities, we put our heads down and pushed through. As we were working hard, maybe our message got a little muddled. We thought the hard work would filter back home. It's easier to say no."

Ellsworth also called Coats a flip-flopper. "We should demand the truth," Ellsworth said. "That's all we have. That's why people don't like Washington. They say something at home and do something else in Washington. We owe the people the truth. If my opponent says he's not running on his record, it's my responsibility to let the voters know."

The Coats campaign made the same charge against Ellsworth. Campaign spokesman Pete Seat said in a Wednesday press release, "While Dan has been consistent in his message – that closing Guantanamo Bay's detention facility and transporting detainees to the United States where they could have the same rights as Americans is wrong – Congressman Ellsworth has been all over the map attempting to distract, deflect and ignore the issue the im-

portant difference of opinion on this issue. First Congressman Ellsworth rubberstamped the plans to transfer terrorist detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the United States then he said he didn't, then he said he did again."

While the Washington Post cited an internal Democratic poll showing Ellsworth only 11 percent down, we haven't seen any independent poll that shows this race tightening. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Coats

2ND CD: Walorski, Donnelly trade ads

Some of the Democratic Party's most endangered lawmakers are taking steps to distance themselves from Speaker Nancy Pelosi in an attempt to inoculate themselves from charges that they are beholden to the unpopular House leader and supportive of the ambitious national Democratic agenda (Politico). Three vulnerable Democrats from conservative-oriented districts are already running

TV ads spotlighting their defiance of Pelosi. In Indiana, Rep. Joe Donnelly, who's trying to ward off GOP state Rep. Jackie Walorski, has begun airing a 30-second spot slamming "Nancy Pelosi's energy tax." Republican 2nd CD nominee Jackie Walorski is running her first TV ad. In the ad, a voice over tells about her South Bend firefighter and mother who taught her about hard work, sacrifice and love of community. "Jackie Walorski lives those lessons today," the voice over continues, noting she founded a mission to "help the poor." The ad notes that Walorski backed Indiana budgets "turning a deficit into a surplus." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Donnelly



Brad Ellsworth performed a pretty decent rendition of "New York, New York" Friday night at the IDEA Convention. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

3RD CD: Hayhurst up on the air as Stutzman closes the gap

Democrat Tom Hayhurst was the first to go up on the air in the 3rd CD but Republican Marlin Stutzman believes he is closing the money gap and will be on the air soon. Hayhurst is shown in a typical family kitchen and says, "Doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting a different result? Congress keeps voting for trade deals and tax deals that ship our jobs away. Bailouts for banks and big insurance companies? I'm Tom Hayhurst and I want to work for folks who sit around kitchen tables, not board room tables. No more Wall Street bailouts. We need tax breaks for companies who keep jobs here. It's time we tried something new." Hayhurst had a commanding 6 to 1 money advantage over Sen. Stutzman on June 30. The Howe Republican said that his campaign just bought \$50,000 in South Bend TV. "We decided to buy



it early before the prices go up," he said of the TV market that will also be the scene of a competitive 2nd CD race. "We're probably not going to go up for a little bit." As for the money gap, Stutzman explained, "I wouldn't say we're even, but I know we've closed that gap quite a bit. I feel good about things, but I'm not taking anything for granted." It was somewhat telling that in Democratic circles, not much attention is going to the 3rd, so this is clearly still a second tier race. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Stutzman



with citizens to listen to their concerns. My 'Made in Indiana' tour, launched on August 2nd, has been a huge success as I continue to discuss my Jobs and Economic Recovery Plan. After listening to business leaders and employees, I am more convinced that we need a representative that will stand up to the Obama/Pelosi agenda and put an end to their out-of-control spending and tax and spend liberal policies." **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

8TH CD: Van Haften & Ellsworth

Two Democrats who know the Bloody 8th told HPI that see the seat is up for grabs. District Chair Tony Long called the race a "tossup" and said, "The race is in play," while former state rep and current radio commentator Dave Crooks said that neither Democrat Trent Van Haften nor Republican Larry Buchson have much name ID. "People are not talking about Van Haften nor Buchson," Crooks said. "People don't know either one of them."

Van Haften addressed the IDEA luncheon on Saturday and called the pivot from U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth to him at the February filing deadline "was a natural transition." He explained, "The sheriff investigates and hands it off to the prosecutor." Ellsworth is a former Vanderburgh County sheriff and Van Haften was a Posey County prosecutor. Van Haften said that "lost" is "an appropriate term" for the 8th CD these days. "The 8th district lost 1,100 jobs recently, families lost paychecks," Van Haften began. "People lost the ability to go out Friday night and so those restaurants lost business. Those churches lost support. Lost is a term I'm going to continue to use. We can't afford to lose any more jobs." Van Haften called for "innovation" from entrepreneurs. "There are some not talking about lost. They didn't stand up and say something when those jobs went to Mexico. I know come Nov. 2 the new term found is going to be used. Across this state we're going to find the right state representative to keep the majority in 4th (Indiana) House. We're going to find the right secretary of state to protect voters' rights. We're going to find the right treasurer who won't spend money on New York lawyers."

Buchson has been endorsed by the Republican National Coalition for Life and he has signed the Indiana Patriot Coalition pledge to repeal "Obamacare." Buchson said of his campaign, "I've been touring the district, meeting

9TH CD: Social Security a key issue

U.S. Rep. Baron Hill hit Republican Todd Young with a second ad assailing him for calling Social Security "a Ponzi scheme." The Hill ad that began running on Monday shows the footage of Young describing the Ponzi scheme. The voice over says, "And now this" with a photo of Young at a March 25 town hall in Salem. "Todd Young believes Social Security and Medicare is social welfare." A senior citizen then says, "Social Security is not welfare." Another says, "Money from every check went to Social Security. That's not welfare." The ad ends with a voice over question: "If Todd Young thinks Social Security and Medicare are welfare, will he take them away?" In Young's first TV ad, a \$3,400 cable buy, Young says, "People ask me why I'm running for Congress. My answer is that Baron Hill won't stand up to Nancy Pelosi and Barack Obama. First he votes for a job-killing energy bill and then Baron Hill votes for government to take over our health care. Instead of stopping the runaway spending, Baron Hill chooses to pile huge debt on our kids and grandkids."

"Todd Young needs to check his facts," said Daniel Altman, Hill's campaign spokesman. "Baron Hill has always been an independent fighter for Southern Indiana. That's evidenced by the fact that Congressional Quarterly named him one of the most independent congressmen in the country. But Young also says in the ad that Hill has voted for "runaway spending." Young's buy is only \$3,900 and only in select cable markets.

Meanwhile, Chris Cillizza of the Washington Post writes: At least a half-dozen Democratic House candidates as well as several Democratic Senators in tight re-election races have featured claims that the GOP wants to either privatize or eliminate the retirement plan entirely in new television ads, and party strategists promise there are far more commercials to come. "When Leader John Boehner,



Paul Ryan and House Republican leaders put privatizing Social Security and dismantling Medicare into their budget they drew a bright line: House Republicans fight for Wall Street, while Democrats fight for seniors who've worked hard and played by the rules," said Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee communications director Jen Crider. A new ad from Indiana Rep. Baron Hill (D) is indicative of the tone and content of Democrats' attacks on Social Security. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

HD15: Time for Downs to get to work, says chairman

Lake County Democratic Chairman Tom McDermott had some harsh words for HD15 Democratic nominee Timothy Downs, who is challenging State Rep. Don Lehe in a House seat that is perennially close. "I think Tim Downs needs to get to work," McDermott said. "He's not the incumbent. I see Shelli working, going door-to-door, but I'm not seeing Downs knocking on doors." McDermott was referring to State Rep. Shelli VanDensburgh. "I know he's not going to like seeing that but he needs to get to work," McDermott said. In 2008, Lehe held off Democrat Myron Sutton 14,651 to 12,286. In 2006, it was even closer, with Lehe defeating Sutton 8,750 to 8,723. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Lehe

HD19: McDermott sees a close race

While Chairman McDermott praised Rep. Shelli VanDensburgh for working hard, he acknowledged that she faces a tough race from former Crown Point mayor Dan Klein, who he acknowledged is working hard and has the name ID you'd expect from a former mayor. In her first race in 2008, VanDensburgh defeated Republican Bill Johnson 15,505 to 12,256. But that was with the Obama campaign and a Democratic tailwind. With a potential GOP wave year, this could be shaping up as a race in play. So it moves to ... **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

HD21: Wesco critical of health costs

HD21 Republican Timothy Wesco, commented new FSSA estimates saying the federal health reforms will cost the state \$3.7 billion saying, "It is unacceptable that Hoosier taxpayers must pay for the federal health care bill twice, once with their federal taxes and then a second time through the \$3.7 billion Indiana state government must now spend at Washington's direction. Clearly, the majority in Congress does not understand the balance of power that should be in place between the federal government and state governments." Wesco noted that if the federal government continues to impose more spending requirements on Indiana, the state could face a budget crisis. "We've been fortunate to have a governor who has worked

hard with the legislature to balance state budgets," he said. "However, if the federal government is allowed to continue unchecked in making states pay for things they don't want or need, Indiana's fiscal situation could take a downward turn." **Horse Race Status:** Likely Wesco

HD36: Hupfer calls Reske down on vote

HD 37 Republican nominee Kyle Hupfer questioned Rep. Scott Reske's support for a proposal to give tax breaks to individuals who make financial contributions to Indiana schools, saying it is identical to legislation Reske voted against in 2010 (Howey Politics Indiana). "Scott Reske had an opportunity to support this great proposal just a few months ago, and he voted against it," said Hupfer. "What has changed since February that he suddenly thinks this is a good idea?" Hupfer also noted that other education proposals from Reske don't do enough to improve Indiana education. "We need legislators who are willing to be open-minded to all aspects of education reform, and who are solely focused on what's in the best interest of our children," said Hupfer. "We can't keep looking at incremental solutions that address narrow slices of the problems our schools and children face." Last week Reske joined State Rep. Terri Austin and State Sen. Tim Lanane at Anderson HS to outline education reforms - Project Jump Start - they plan to introduce during the 2011 session. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

HD62: Blanton appears OK ... for now

Driving through Orange County and into French Lick you couldn't miss the dozens of campaign signs along the "Frank O'Bannon Highway" for State Rep. Sandra Blanton. But local sources say Republican Matt Ubelhoer is giving her a race. Former Democratic rep Jerry Denbo told HPI, "Blanton's doing OK but her opponent is working hard. She could get washed out in a wave. The Democratic base is flat." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Blanton

HD68: Daniels to campaign for McMillin

Gov. Mitch Daniels hits the campaign trail next Tuesday for a campaign event for Republican Jud McMillin, who is challenging State Rep. Bob Bischoff in a 2008 rematch. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

HD76: Skillman stumps for McNamara

Lt. Gov Becky Skillman waded into the battle for the House on Tuesday, campaigning for Republican Wendy McNamara in her race for the open seat against State Sen. Bob Dieg. Skillman said McNamara "is uniquely qualified, and with a realistic outlook for today's government. When I met her a little over a year ago, she made an immediate and positive impression. We have high expectations for her.



Wendy has superior skills in education and is people-focused. She will be able to hit the ground running and provide valuable input on day one." McNamara expressed gratitude for the support of her campaign. "I have a great deal of admiration and respect for Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman," McNamara said. "I am grateful and welcome her support of my campaign and appreciate the energy that the lieutenant governor brings to Southwest Indiana." **Horse Race Status:** Tossup



Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman campaigned with HD76 Republican nominee Wendy "Mac" McNamara Tuesday in Evansville.

SD15: Morris says Wyss won't debate

Democratic nominee Jack Morris said in an op-ed article that he has pledged to run a clean and transparent campaign against State Sen. Tom Wyss, who he wants to debate. Morris said that he heard of no response "until reading an article in the (Fort Wayne) Journal Gazette on Aug. 22, titled 'No Debate for You.' Wyss referred to telephone calls he attributed to my campaign addressing his travel on taxpayer money. He used these as justification to ignore my debate request. I am troubled by his response, but consider it an opportunity to address the legitimate questions of how our representatives are spending our taxpayer dollars and the public's right to know." Morris added, "Recently, I pledged my full support to create an online, checkbook view, of our state budget which would make state income and spending reviewable by anyone. The goal is to make the state budget transparent. I believe this issue is important if we are ever going to assure our government functions appropriately and our officials are held accountable. I plan to give the citizens what they deserve: an open, honest, substantive, and clean discussion of these issues throughout the campaign." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Wyss

Hamilton endorses Dem statewide

A giant in national and Indiana politics returned to Indianapolis this week to endorse the statewide Democratic ticket (Carden, Times of Northwest Indiana). Former U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, a Democrat who represented southern Indiana for 34 years, had lunch with Democratic secretary of state nominee Vop Osili, state treasurer nominee Pete

Buttigieg and state auditor nominee Sam Locke. Afterward, Hamilton declared the three men "the new face of the Democratic Party in this state." "I cannot remember a group of candidates who impress me more running for state office than these three gentlemen," Hamilton said. "These gentlemen are able, competent, successful, they've got a track record, and they've got youth, energy, vitality, ideas. I'm impressed by that, and I hope the Indiana voter will be as well."

All three of the Democratic candidates seeking statewide office declined to take

a firm position on adding property tax caps to Indiana's constitution (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Auditor hopeful Sam Locke said he thinks the concept of the caps is sound but is concerned that local governments have enough flexibility to provide services. He said he hasn't decided how he will vote on the constitutional amendment in November. Secretary of state candidate Vop Osili and treasurer hopeful Pete Buttigieg also said they haven't made a decision.

Marion County Prosecutor: Curry critical of Brizzi

Terry Curry, Democratic candidate for Marion County prosecutor, held a press conference detailing what he sees as potential missteps in the investigation and subsequent prosecution related to the fatal crash involving three motorcyclists and IMPD officer Bisard (Howey Politics Indiana). In dismissing all alcohol related charges, Prosecutor Brizzi and counsel for Bisard have repeatedly stated that such dismissal was appropriate because the lab technician drawing Bisard's blood sample was not "certified" and that the blood draw should have been conducted in a hospital. Citing the Indiana statute regarding obtaining blood samples, Curry said, "It is clearly not a requirement of Indiana law that the medical personnel obtaining a blood sample be 'certified' or that the sample be obtained only in a hospital." Curry released a multipage legal memorandum outlining applicable current law regarding obtaining blood samples for the purposes of DUI prosecutions. "Unilateral dismissal of the alcohol charges has only added to the public outrage regarding this tragic incident," Curry said. ❖



Democrats Republicans

52 48

Republican Pickup

HD46: (Open, Tincher) Bionca Gambill (D) vs. Bob Heaton (R)

HD30: Rep. Ron Herrell (D) vs. Mike Karickhoff (R)

Tossup

HD17: Rep. Nancy Dembowski (D) vs. Frances Elert

HD31: Rep. Joe Pearson (D) vs. Kevin Mahan(R)

HD44: Rep. Nancy Michael (D) vs. Jim Baird (R)

HD72: Shane Gibson (D) vs. Rep. Ed Clere (R)

HD77: Rep. Gail Riecken (D) vs. Cheryl Musgrave (R)

HD19: Dan Klein (R) v. Rep. Shelli VanDensBurgh*

HD37: Rep. Scott Reske (D) vs. Kyle Hupfer (R)

HD68: Rep. Bob Bischoff (D) vs. Jud McMillin(R)

HD76: Sen. Bob Dieg (D) vs. Wendy McNamara (R)

HD89: Rep. John Barnes (D) vs. Cindy Kirchhofer (R)

Leans D

HD36: State Rep. Terri Austin (D) vs. Kim Builta (R)

HD70: Rep. Paul Robertson (D) vs. Rhonda Rhoads (R)

HD75: (Open, Avery) Mike Goebel (D) vs. Ron Bacon

HD62: Rep. Sandra Blanton (D) v. Matt Ubelhoer (R)

HD73: (Open, Oxley) Ryan Bowers v. Steve Davisson

Leans R

HD4: Judge Thomas Webber vs. State Rep. Ed Soliday

HD26: Paul Roales (D) vs. Rep. Randy Truitt (R)

HD92: Brett Voorhies (D) vs. Rep. Phil Hinkle (R)

HD15: Timothy Downs (D) vs. Rep. Don Lehe(R)*

HD51: Cody Ross (D) vs. Rep. Dick Dodge (R)

Likely D

HD42: Rep. Dale Grubb (D) vs. Clerk Sharon Negele

HD66: Rep. Terry Goodin (D) vs. Jim Lucas (R)

HD86: Rep. Ed DeLaney (D) vs. Kurt Webber

HD43: Rep. Clyde Kersey (D) vs. Al Morrison (R)

HD74: Rep. Russ Stilwell (D) vs. Susan Ellspermann

HD97: Rep. Mary Ann Sullivan (D) vs. Wes Robinson

Likely R

HD21: (Open, Walorski) Dwight Fish (D) vs. Timothy Wesco (R)

Safe

Democrats: Fry, Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Cheatham, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Pelath, Stevenson, Rear-don, Dobis, V. Smith, Bardon, Klinker, Tyler, Moseley, Pflum, Pierce, Welch, Battles, Stemler, Stilwell, Gia-Quinta, Moses, Pryor, Bartlett, Porter, Crawford, Summers, Day.

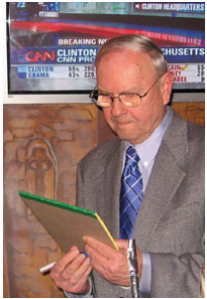
Republicans: Open-Borrer (Morris), Open-Bell (Heuer), Open-Ruppel (Kubacki), Open-Clements (Van Nat-ter), Open-Duncan (Frye), Open-Murphy (Speedy), Yarde, Dermody, Messmer, Neese, Gutwein, Wolkins, Friend, McClain, J. Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Davis, Lutz, Torr, Steuerwald, T. Brown, Borders, Foley, Culver, Leonard, Cherry, Saunders, Knollman, Eberhart, Burton, M.Smith, Koch, Crouch, Lehman, Espich, Pond, Noe, Bosma, Behning, Frizzell. ❖



Wishing politics wasn't so negative

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - People say they wish politics wasn't so negative. Yet, write a column deemed positive about any elected official - even someone with statesman status like Sen. Dick Lugar - and reaction includes angry messages ridiculing all in Congress. All incumbents.



"Get rid of 'em all."

"Throw the whole (bleeping) bunch out of (bleeping) Washington."

"Vote against all incumbents. Start all over."

Vote against all incumbents? Really? All?

If the American voters who put all of those incumbents in office were wrong on all of them, the voters must be too stupid to deserve a choice. So, should we replace our democracy with something else?

Royalty? Kings and queens to rule, maybe from the Bush family or the Clinton family?

Dictatorship? Newt Gingrich, with the way he wielded a gavel, might like the role. Or Nancy Pelosi?

Religious rule? An ayatollah? The pope?

Voting against all incumbents?

Makes as much sense as voting against all candidates whose names start with letters in the second half of the alphabet. Or only voting for candidates with birthdays coming in the first half of the year.

If we're serious about a democracy and don't want to scrap our Constitution, the reasonable answer to displeasure over how our elected officials perform is to pay more attention when electing them, more attention to information on their credentials and governmental philosophy. More attention also to the negative 30-second TV ads, not just to the charges but to whether the charges are based on fact.

Why oust incumbents? Any evidence that a challenger always automatically will be better? Of course not. We've already seen that some of the newcomers selected in primaries have turned out to dumb and dangerous.

Nor is an incumbent automatically better. Look at both incumbent and challenger. Look at their experience, good, bad or nonexistent.

Experience often does matter. Would Notre Dame hire a football coach without any experience playing or coaching college football?

Oh, wait. They did.

If all incumbents, Republicans and Democrats alike, were defeated in congressional races, the real winners would be the federal bureaucrats and lobbyists, who have skill and resources to fill the void.

Although voters are understandably displeased with some actions or lack thereof in Congress and may even talk of anti-incumbency votes, few really will go blindly into polling places to vote out everybody in office. Most voters are smarter than that.

And if they wanted to do the anti-incumbency bit, how would they vote in the U.S. Senate race in Indiana?

1. Vote against Republican Dan Coats because, although not now an incumbent senator, he served in the Senate before, making him one of THEM?

2. Vote against Democrat Brad Ellsworth because, although not now an incumbent senator, he serves in the House, making him one of THEM?

3. Not vote in order to show THEM?

A reasonable decision would be to see where these two, both decent and intelligent men willing to suffer the slings and arrows of negative campaigns, would vote on issues of importance to you.

The spiels of angry anti-incumbency promoters remind me of those TV commercials trying to convince you that you have some horrible disease and need to buy the sponsor's miracle cure.

You know:

"Do you sometimes get a headache or upset stomach during election campaigns?

"You could suffer from I.G.Y. Incumbent generated yuck.

"There is hope today for I.G.Y. sufferers. 'Kill Incumbents' offers immediate relief. 'Kill Incumbents' eliminates that yucky feeling."

Video of pretty young women, with two cute little kids. She smiles and says:

"I was sick every election campaign. Couldn't eat. Couldn't sleep. Didn't have the energy to take the kids to the park. 'Kill Incumbents' gave me my life back and my kids time again in the park."

Video of distinguished looking older gentleman, smiling and saying:

"During elections I was always sick. My doctor told me I had I.G.Y. He prescribed 'Kill Incumbents.' Now, I enjoy campaigns. 'Kill Incumbents' changed my life."

Announcer quickly says:

"Side effects could include stroke, heart attacks, cancer and loss of sight, hearing, memory reason and democracy. If you experience these side effects, stop taking 'Kill Incumbents.'"

"'Kill Incumbents' offers lasting relief. Available at polling places everywhere." ❖



The highs & lows of unemployment

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana's unemployment rate in July was 10.1 percent; this was the twelfth highest of the 50 states. Nevada was running at 14.3 percent to lead the nation while the lowest rate was 3.6 percent in North Dakota. We're much closer to the worst than we are to the best.



Morton Marcus
Column

Are these the best of times or the worst of times? In material terms, these might be the best of times. Many of the poorest walk around with cell phones to their ears; children go to air conditioned schools that are downhill (both ways) from home; machines for washing dishes and clothes stand ready for duty in many homes where baseball games are watched in HDTV on screens longer than the arm of any

adult in the house.

Psychologically, these are bad times. Uncertainty is rampant in the economy. Fear and anxiety are responses to uncertainty that plague many households and businesses. Most, however, responded to the current economic uncertainty with caution. They cut back on spending, increased cash balances, reduced debt and assumed an adamant position sitting on their wallets.

Nonetheless, these are not the worst of times. As we scan the records of unemployment rates from January 1976 to the present, July 2010 was the worst month for only one state (Nevada, 14.3 percent). Indiana's highest unemployment rate in those 34 years was 12.7 percent in January 1983. It was during that 1982-83 recession that 29 of our 50 states experienced their peak unemployment rates.

That long term view offers some comfort, but does not tell us if we are better off now than a year ago. Indiana's unemployment rate in July was 10.1 percent compared to 10.3 percent a year earlier. But we have learned that an improvement in the unemployment rate is not necessarily the sign of a healthy economy.

Over the past year, the number of persons employed in Indiana has declined by nearly 52,000 persons (1.8 percent) which is the fifth worse case in the nation. Simultaneously, we saw the number unemployed fall by

11,000. Put those two numbers together and Indiana's labor force dropped by 63,300, a two percent decline, the sixth worse case in the U.S.

Our state's economy remains in bad shape. We are one of 17 states that had the numbers of employed and unemployed persons both drop in the past year. We're in the same class as New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Normally, when people lose jobs, the number unemployed rises. These times are so tough that people who already are unemployed leave the labor force along with those losing their jobs. The result is that the unemployment rate may improve although the underlying conditions are worsening.

Indiana had 39 counties in which the number of employed persons grew in the past year. As the number of employed persons grew in 26 of these counties, the number unemployed declined while the labor force grew. Kosciusko (Warsaw) is an example: employment grew by 2,100, unemployment fell by 900, and the labor force increased by 1,200.

The majority of Indiana counties (53) saw the number employed fall.

In 22 of these counties, the decline in employment was accompanied by a rise in unemployment. Vanderburgh (Evansville) exemplifies these counties with a 2,500 decline in employed persons and a rise of only 900 in those unemployed. The result was a labor force shrinkage of 1,600.

By contrast, there were 31 counties where the numbers employed and unemployed fell, depressing the labor force. Shelby County, for example, saw a 900 person decrease in its labor force, the combination of a loss of 700 persons with jobs and a decline of 200 in those unemployed.

As ever, the full story is always deeper than the headlines. ❖

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



Susan Estrich, Rasmussen Reports: Gallup is out this week with a new poll showing the generic Republican beating the generic Democrat in House contests by 10 points. The gap, Gallup points out, is the biggest one it has seen in midterm generic polls since it started doing them. It is substantially larger than the gap in 1994, when Republicans took control of the House in the first midterm election of the last Democratic president, Bill Clinton. Does that mean it's time for Republicans to start picking the drapes for their new leadership offices? Should Nancy Pelosi be packing up her gavel? Not so fast. In a choice between being 10 points ahead or 10 points behind, any hack worth her salt will tell you that 10 points ahead is better. But there are enough "buts" in generic polls to make any predictions at this point wildly premature. First of all, polls are snapshots, not predictors. They tell you where folks are now, which is not necessarily where they'll be some 10 weeks from now. Politics and public opinion are volatile; every pollster I know will tell you generic polls jump around. Secondly, generic candidates don't run. People hate Congress overwhelmingly, but most of them make an exception for the particular person who represents them -- who helped find a lost Social Security check, spoke at their kid's graduation or welcomed them to their office. Incumbents do much better than generics any day. Thirdly, the Republican Party is showing a number of signs that it is more than capable of stealing defeat from the jaws of victory. The tea party movement has brought real and genuine enthusiasm to the GOP, but it has also brought real divisiveness. Could Harry Reid beat the generic Republican? Not easily. Could he beat tea partier and political newcomer Sharron Angle? Much more likely. Every Democrat I know is rooting for Palin-favorite Joe Miller to come out on top of incumbent Lisa Murkowski in Alaska precisely because she's running about 30 points better than he is against the Democrat in a general election contest.

Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star: At some point, most political leaders face a crisis. How they respond to that crisis often defines them in the minds of constituents. For a president, it can be a terrorist attack or a nasty recession. For a governor or a mayor, it's often a natural disaster. It's easy to be a good leader during the good times. How that leader responds during bad times is what matters most. After nearly three years in office, Mayor Greg Ballard now has his crisis. The public image of his police department is in shambles. His new public safety director is on the ropes. And the news seems to worsen by the day. As such, residents from Haughville to Irvington to Nora and points beyond are disappointed and disturbed by the flood of arrests and offenses coming out of the police depart-

ment This crisis is particularly problematic in a city that's spent years grappling with an awful crime problem. It's hard to convince people that public safety is job one when they keep seeing police officers' mug shots on the front page. The collapse of confidence makes it easy to forget that most officers do a great job and risk their lives by putting on a uniform. In response to the ongoing problems at the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, critics have targeted Public Safety Director Frank Straub. Many Democrats have called for him to be fired. Whether he will survive this explosion of bad news is an open question. But ultimately, this is Ballard's crisis. Nobody elected Frank Straub; Ballard appointed him. He is the mayor's employee.

Dan Thomasson, Evansville Courier & Press: It often is the little things that get one into big trouble as President Barack Obama is finding out. After urging Americans planning summer escapes to head for the beaches of the Gulf in support of those beleaguered by the nation's worst oil spill, the Obamas spent their days off elsewhere. Mrs. Obama went to Spain, raising serious questions about the political sagacity of White House advisers. But that gaffe pales in comparison to the president's decision to needlessly step into the controversy over Muslim plans to build a mosque as part of a cultural center near ground zero. In a White House celebration of Ramadan, the president told American Muslim leaders that in this nation of unparalleled religious freedom, they had a constitutional right to build the mosque on private property anywhere they chose. He seemed clearly to be endorsing the idea of placing the worship center a stone's throw away from the site of the worst foreign attack on American soil since Pearl Harbor. The presidential intervention was even more jarring because he had earlier stated the issue was a local matter. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg had already said he would do nothing to try to prevent the mosque from being located on that site. In the considerable fallout over the mosque, it must suddenly have occurred to the White House political team a trifle too late that polls have been showing nearly 70 percent of Americans are on the other side in this issue, that they consider it an affront to the innocents who died there. So a day after providing Republicans with another club with which to beat him, Obama met reporters and denied he had meant to endorse the mosque site. "I was not commenting and I will not comment on the wisdom of making the decision to put a mosque there," he was quoted. "I was commenting very specifically on the right people have that dates back to our founding." Well, you could have fooled those Muslims in attendance at the earlier White House ceremony. Whether or not this "clarification" will do the trick is anyone's guess. ❖





Buyer critical of Congress at VA

MILWAUKEE - In what, he says, may be his last public speaking appearance before retirement from Congress, Rep. Steve Buyer (R-Ind.) used the American Legion convention in Milwaukee Wednesday as a platform for criticism of what he characterized as a partisan, hypocritical and misguided Congress (American Legion). The nine-term Congress-man and Army veteran opened his address with nostalgic tales of a boyhood in and around his father and uncle's American Legion post in Monticello, Indiana, of which Buyer is a life member today. His talk soon turned to business, however, as he contrasted a previous generation of lawmakers with those serving today, "If God had given me the ability to choose my years of service to the nation in Congress," Buyer said, "I would have chosen 1948 to 1964, because the individuals who served in Congress at that time...had served the nation in World War II and Korea. They understood the American character. They understood the character that was forged in the crucibles of very difficult times...to go to foreign lands, to go to places they had never been and fight for people they had never met and to leave freedom in their footsteps."



He continued, "They understood something very powerful, something more powerful than party labels, something more powerful than being a Republican; something more powerful than being a Democrat. How about those in Congress being an American for once?" Buyer then took Congressional colleagues to task for, in his view, claiming to care deeply for wounded and disabled veterans while enabling their plight by ignoring the needs of active duty war fighters.



"When somebody enters the military," said Buyer, "you make sure that they are properly trained, properly equipped so you don't have to care of them the rest of their lives."

Despite remarks sometimes tinged with bitterness, Buyer ended his 32-minute speech with a prosaic, handwritten message of hope about America and Americans. "I believe," said Buyer, "that in each of us in an indomitable spirit, born free and armed with an insatiable desire and undaunted courage with which to discover new frontiers...with the hope that there is a better future just over the horizon. I believe America is the land of opportunity," he continued, "...a place where it is okay to dream big. I also believe that there is a nostalgic vision for our nation of decent and determined Americans who are guided by their faith, their virtues and their values and who have opinions and beliefs that can improve life. I also believe among us that there is a vibrant sense of nationhood that mocks the prophets of evil, doom and ruin."

Jobless claims down for 2nd week

WASHINGTON - The number of people requesting unemployment benefits declined for the second straight week, suggesting that the slowing economy isn't prompting widespread job cuts (Associated Press). New claims for unemployment aid fell last week by 6,000 to a seasonally adjusted 472,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. Economists had expected a slight increase, according to a survey by Thomson Reuters. The four-week average of claims, a less-volatile measure, fell by 2,500 to 485,500, its first decrease after four straight increases. Even with the declines, claims are still at much higher levels than they would be in a healthy economy. When economic output is growing rapidly and employers are hiring, claims generally drop below 400,000. In a separate report, the Labor Department said productivity fell in the spring by the largest amount in nearly four years while labor cost rose. That indicates companies may



have reached the limits of their ability to squeeze more work out of their reduced work forces. Productivity, or the amount of output per hour of work, dropped at a 1.8 percent annual rate in the April-to-June quarter, double the 0.9 percent decline initially reported a month ago.

Ballard stands by safety director

INDIANAPOLIS - Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard stood by his embattled public safety director Wednesday, calling demands for his firing pure politics (Indianapolis Star). He spoke after the Baptist Ministers Alliance renewed a call for the resignation or firing of Public Safety Director Frank Straub, whom Ballard appointed to the job eight months ago. The group's president said the "police department is in shambles" in the wake of police mishandling of a fatal crash involving suspended officer David Bisard and other incidents this year involving alleged misconduct by officers. "More and more, this department's troubles are being exposed," the Rev. Stephen Clay, president of the Baptist Ministers Alliance, said at a news conference Wednesday. "The director lacks both internal support and raw, community-based support." Ballard didn't respond directly but expressed support for Straub's efforts to reform the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. "I do support the job he's doing," Ballard said in one of several interviews he gave to media outlets during the day. "People who want to play politics with a tragedy like this, it's just shameful. It's just shameful."

BMV continues

Seaton suspension

CROWN POINT - The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles will continue its suspension of Carol Ann Seaton's driving privileges, and will suspend

those privileges for a year if Seaton proves she's a resident of the state, according to a ruling released by the BMV on Wednesday (Post-Tribune). The BMV will also mark her record as fraudulent until the Democratic candidate for Lake County assessor can prove she's an Indiana resident. But Seaton can appeal. The ruling is a recommended order and will become a final order once the period for requesting the appeal has passed later this month. Seaton's driver's license is currently suspended by the BMV, and the 12-month suspension will become enacted if Seaton proves she's a resident of the state. The BMV also invalidated the title and registration to Seaton's Ford vehicle until she provides proof of residency. The ruling comes weeks after Seaton came before an administrative law judge with the BMV in regards to driver's licenses she concurrently carried in Indiana and Michigan. Judge Carla Hartman found that Seaton committed fraud when she applied for Indiana driver's licenses in 2008 and two dates in 2009.

4,000 use online voter registration

INDIANAPOLIS - The secretary of state's office says more than 4,000 Indiana residents have gone online to register to vote or update registration information since the state started offering the online service July 1 (Associated Press). Citizens must have a valid Indiana driver's license or state-issued ID card to use the online registration form at <http://www.indianavoters.com>. The National Association of Secretaries of State says Indiana is one of only eight states in the country that allow voters to go online to register to vote. Oct. 4 is the deadline for Indiana residents to register to vote in the Nov. 2 general election.

Illegal immigrants up in Indiana

ELKHART - The illegal immigrant population in Indiana is up, even though the group's numbers nationwide have dipped, according to the Pew Hispanic Center (Vanderbilt University, Elkhart Truth). The Washington, D.C.-based research organization puts the number of illegal immigrants in Indiana as of 2009 at 120,000, 1.9 percent of the overall population of 6.31 million. That's up from 100,000 in 2008 and underscores the steady growth the segment has experienced across Indiana since at least 1990, when the number totaled just 10,000. By contrast, the number of undocumented immigrants across the country totaled an estimated 11.1 million as of March 2009, down from a peak of 12 million in 2007, Pew said. The 11.1 million figure represents 3.7 percent of the total U.S. population.

Scandal closes Knight Twp. FD

EVANSVILLE - Officials with the Knight Township Fire Department blame alleged mismanagement of township funds by former Trustee Linda K. Durham for the department's having to shut down at the end of this year (Evansville Courier & Press). Knight Township Fire Chief Chris Wathen announced Wednesday that after 28 years of service, the department will cease operations at the end of 2010. "This is a direct result of the activities and mismanagement of the previous administration of the Knight Township Trustee's Office," said Wathen. "Please understand that this decision was agonizing." The Knight Township Fire Department will cease to exist as of Dec. 31. This is the station on North Burkhardt Road. Durham