

The Howey Political Report

The weekly briefing
on Indiana politics

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2 R publicans, 7 D ms sitting on hot seats for control of Indiana House

INDIANAPOLIS - The battle for the Indiana House centers on nine seats - six districts the Republicans lost by a total of 685 votes in 1992, and two GOP seats in the Muncie area that Democrats sense some GOP vulnerability. A Democratic seat in Fort Wayne could be jeopardized over the status of a hazardous waste landfill.

State Rep. Mike Young, R-Indianapolis, is predicting a Republican tide along with Democratic discomfort with U.S. Senate candidate Jim Jontz and President Clinton to give Indiana Republicans control of the House.

"We'll have 52 to 54 seats, with the way Lugar is running," said Young, who is heading up the Republican House Campaign Committee. "It will be like '66 or '78 for us."

Two years ago, Gov. Evan Bayh was re-elected by a 63-percent plurality. "But Bayh didn't have coattails," Young said. "With newly crafted districts, Democrats had hoped to turn the governor's success into a 61-39 advantage. They ended up with a 55-45 majority.

"We ended up gaining a seat," Young said. "We just missed control of the House."

Warren Mathies, who is coordinator of the Democratic Majority Caucus, said the basic themes will be no new taxes under the Democrats and a stable economy. "I don't think people will want change," Mathies said. When told of Young's comments on Lugar's strength and Bill Clinton's weaknesses, Mathies responded, "Well, he does have some valid points."

The key races to watch are seats in Batesville held by Democrat Ed Goble in a Democratic-leaning district the GOP thinks it has a chance at, and two Republican seats in the Muncie area.

This year, the RHCC has targeted each of the districts narrowly lost two years ago. It also has to hold on to the two seats in Muncie. Republicans have an outside shot at regaining a Fort Wayne seat the Democrats picked up in 1990. A massive GOP tidal wave obviously changes

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Quote Of The Week:

"Clinton has taken huge political risks. Bush went through four years and his whole public life without ever mentioning health care, except with regard to his checkups at Bethesda."

- Rep. Frank McCloskey

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Race for the House, from page 1

the scope of expectations on both sides and that, like in 1980 when the Reagan landslide that helped stake control of the U.S. Senate, didn't coalesce until the final weekend of the campaign.

Here is a rundown of targeted districts in the Indiana House:

DISTRICT 65

Brent Steele (R) v. Rep. Linda Henderson, D-Bedford. Henderson won this seat by 87 votes in a Republican district over former Rep. Ralph Anderson in 1992. Steele is an attorney and the son of a former state senator who managed Sen. Becky Skillman's campaign. "Our lead is outside the margin of error," Young said. He said Henderson targeted Anderson's votes for freezing property taxes and raising sales taxes two years ago. Henderson, however, voted not to reduce the auto excise tax and supported eight Democratic tax increases, Young said.

Mathies contends that Henderson has a "commanding lead" and adds, "I think we'll be all right there."

DISTRICT 24

Rich McClain (R) v. Stan Frantz (D) for a seat vacated by State Rep. John Davis, D-Logansport. Republicans lost this race by 24 votes two years ago with problems between the candidate and the local party organization. Young said the Indiana State Teachers Association plans to play a role on behalf of Frantz. A controversial article earlier this summer suggested McClain was dismissed from a school job.

Mathies explained, "This will be a good race. Frantz is well-known, having sold insurance in that voter base. He knows a lot of people."

DISTRICT 52

Joy LeCount (R) v. State Rep. Dale Sturtz, D-LaGrange. Sturtz, a former LaGrange County sheriff, defeated Republican Les Alligood by 174 votes in 1992. Alligood had to deal with a family illness and wasn't able to campaign. Republicans turned to Noble County Commissioner LeCount, who has defeated Democrats to win the commissioner race and an earlier county council race. Sixty percent of the district falls in Noble County where, Young said, "LeCount is well known and liked." Young added, "We'll have the money to do what we have to do to win. She'll be the next state representative up there."

Said Mathies, "That will be a good race. Dale has a good opportunity to win that race."

DISTRICT 69

Barb Cook (R) v. State Rep. Markt Lytle, D-Madison. This is a rematch from 1992 when a recount gave Lytle a 174-vote win. Republicans think there were some "shenanigans" with the recount and absentee bal-

lots. Cook is a former clerk-treasurer in Madison. With U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton heavily favored in the 9th CD, Young is predicting that Democrats won't turn out. He said Lytle is "pretty weak" in Jackson and Jennings counties.

Mathies acknowledges the GOP will try to "chip away" at Lytle. "But it's predominantly Democratic. I don't think they'll have much of a chance at prying that one away."

DISTRICT 59

Lynn Bigley (R) v. State Rep. Bob Hayes, D-Columbus. Hayes has a history of not being able to defend his seat. He lost in 1978, won in 1980, won in 1982, lost in 1984, but has won every election since 1986. His margins, however, have never cleared 1,000 votes. Republicans sought a challenger well-known and with a political base and found Columbus City Council Pro-Tem Bigley. Young calls Hayes "one of the most liberal members of the House" and believes he will be vulnerable on crime, having voted against a bill that would make it a crime to sell drugs within 1,000 feet of a school. "He's got a pretty poor record on crime," Young said. ISTA and Democratic Party expected to be heavily involved since Hayes is in leadership.

Mathies notes that with the exception of 1978, Hayes has done well in mid-term elections.

DISTRICT 67

Cleo Duncan (R) v. State Rep. Ed Goble, D-Batesville. Goble is a 24-year veteran, but won his last two elections by 500 and 480 votes. Duncan is a county councilwoman. Goble is in leadership and will get support from the state party. Young is counting on low Democratic turnout for Duncan to claim the upset. "If we win that seat, that gets us the majority," Young stated.

Says Mathies, "That's such a Democratic district."

DISTRICT 35

State Rep. Bruce Munson, R-Muncie, v. Pat Eddy, D. Munson won this race by 185 votes. "We weren't supposed to win that one last time," Young said. "Because it's a Republican year, we think he'll be OK." Eddy is a member of the ISTA bargaining board and can count on support there. Fractious Delaware County Democratic organization could hurt Eddy.

DISTRICT 34

Jim Van Leer (R) v. Bill Elliott (D). State Rep. Fred Winger is vacating this seat for run for the Senate. Van Leer is an African-American and father of a high school basketball star. Elliott upset Ray Scheele in the Democratic primary, possibly due to some confusion over the Delaware County sheriff with the same last name. "We'll make sure they know the difference this time," Young said. "We think we have a good shot winning that seat." Again, discord

The Horse Race

US. SENATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Jontz (D) v. Lugar (R)	Safe R	No evidence that Jontz is going to turn this thing around. This will allow Lugar camp to throw time and energy into close CD and legislative races.
2ND CD Hogsett (D) v. McIntosh (R)	Toss Up	Still a toss-up, but HPR senses some significant problems in the McIntosh camp. They'll need to hit the airwaves soon. Quayle visit on Sept. 13 may help McIntosh snap out of it.
4TH CD Long (D) v. Souder (R)	Leaning D	Time for Souder to surface. How he plays the crack cocaine issue and how Long responds will be the key to this Republican's viability. Long has never been seriously challenged before.
5TH CD Beatty (D) v. Buyer (R)	Leaning R	Buyer and Beatty scrapping over crime bill and abortion. Sheriff does best on crime issue, but can he keep that issue hot when the nation turns to health care?
7th CD Harmless (D) v. Myers (R)	Leaning R	Issues shaping up on Myers' side. Harmless will have to up name recognition in Indy TV market. Clinton may be too big of a millstone for this savvy Democrat.
8TH CD McCloskey (D) v. Hostettler (R)	Leaning D	Hostettler strategy - big fund-raisers in September, early October will give them TV bucks 3 to 5 weeks out. Using earned media to keep it close until then. NTU rating on McCloskey: Ouch!
80TH INDIANA HOUSE GiaQuinta (D) v. Becker (R)	Leaning D	Republicans attempting to steal Adams Center Landfill issue from minority Dems. Too early to tell how this will stick on GiaQuinta, but the gale flags are up...

TRENDLINE: Vargus polls due out, which should shed some light. Bigger sampling in 2nd and 7th CDs. Clinton rebound wobbles on Martha's Vineyard.

House, from page 3

among Delaware County Democrats could hurt the 70-year-old Elliott.

DISTRICT 80

John Beckler (R) v. State Rep. Ben GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne. This is a long-shot seat for the Republicans. Becker did respectably as a slated candidate against GiaQuinta in 1992.

The predominant issue will be the Adams Center Landfill, a hazardous waste dump between Fort Wayne and New Haven. Long an issue for minority Democrats, Republicans are attempting to seize the issue. The Allen County GOP vowed not to accept political donations from Chemical Waste Management, although there had been public pressure to do so.

Last Thursday following a court order, the three Republican county commissioners issued a stop-work order. "When given the power, the commissioners acted," said Allen County Chairman Steve Shine. "They are showing those people in Adams Township that the commissioners are concerned about quality of life issues."

What makes the Adams Center Landfill a sticky issue for the Democrats is that GiaQuinta's son, Mark, is not only Fort Wayne City Council president and voted to annex the landfill into Fort Wayne, but serves as an attorney for the landfill. "We think that will be a big issue and the Beckers are on the right side," Young said.

The other element to this race is the rejuvenation of the Allen County party under Shine. An unprecedented and massive TV and radio ad campaign paid for by the Allen County party on behalf of the entire slate could be a boon for Becker.

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Congress Watch

The intangible in Indiana's Congressional campaigns: is Clinton 'in control?'

The one intangible that cannot be overlooked going into Indiana's 10 congressional campaigns is the perception that things are not "in control" on the national level.

In the past two mid-term elections - 1986 and 1990 - Republican presidents carried that perception. In 1986, when Nancy Reagan had pretty much taken control as the President napped, the feeling was that a team was in place that could handle the emergencies and the country was moving in the right direction.

In 1990, President Bush was gearing the nation up for the Persian Gulf war. In both mid-term elections, Republicans absorbed only a handful of House losses.

But today in Indiana, there is a perception that President Clinton is not in control. Republicans are suggesting they can pick up anywhere from 25 to 40 House seats, which would allow them to effectively block any remnants of the Clinton agenda. Three, possibly four, of those seats are in Indiana.

One open House seat contest in the 2nd CD between Joe Hogsett and David McIntosh will serve as the Indiana barometer for several reasons. With no incumbent running, there is no edge or disadvantage for either candidate. The tone and tenor of the campaign will be closely watched by both state and national politicians. It mirrors the state's two premier political spheres - the Quayles and Bayhs.

For Bayh-Hogsett, the perception is that Gov. Evan Bayh needs to come through for his strategist and buddy. This didn't happen in 1992 when Hogsett was never in the race. Secondly, if Bayh ends up in the Cabinet or as a Senate candidate in 1998, having Joe Hogsett in Congress could be extremely valuable.

For the McIntosh-Quayle sphere, this race is a proxy war of ideas - those of "New Democrats" v. "Family Values."

Why do Hoosier voters feel the Clinton presidency is not in control? They've seen an attempt to bureaucratize one-seventh of the economy (health care), wild scrambling on a razor-thin congressional victory (crime bill), an embarrassing scandal that isn't going away (Whitewater), and a blundering foreign policy apparatus.

They didn't trust Clinton's health care proposals and "New Democrats" such as Jill Long and Tim Roemer regularly broke ranks with Clinton on crucial votes. More distressing to voters is foreign policy, where the Clinton administration careens with no cohesive policy in an array of areas: Korea, the Balkans, Africa and the Caribbean. Hoosiers find two of the the public officials they most trust - U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton -

continually appearing on national TV and prodding Clinton to act or tone down.

Just last Saturday night on CNN's "Newsmaker Saturday," Hamilton said most members of Congress are "highly skeptical" of an invasion of Haiti.

"They may have a lot of questions about it, but they'll accept it," Hamilton said.

A week earlier on NBC's "Meet the Press," Hamilton pressed Clinton to make "a clear statement" on Cuba, noting that Hoosiers were "confused" on the issue. The clarity never came.

On CNN, Lugar added, "If we don't invade now, the administration will be accused of being wishy-washy. If we do invade, it will be a historical mistake."

An Invasion of Haiti, and its lingering aftermath, could very well become the catalyst in pushing Republican totals into a tide that could take over both houses of Congress. The American people aren't likely to tolerate American casualties.

Clinton is viewed as being pushed around by Castro. And the use of Guantanamo Naval Base as a "concentration camp," as Lugar defined it, could bring vivid TV footage of massive suffering when the campaigns mature in late October. A Category Five hurricane striking the base could be catastrophic to the Clinton presidency.

If a bumbling Clinton keeps his presidency from becoming the campaign's defining issue, the Democrats have a decent chance to hang on to the Indiana seats they possess in the 2nd and 8th while possibly picking up the 7th, where Democrat Michael Harnless has a big war chest to help in his attempt to unseat U.S. Rep. John Myers.

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In the worst-case scenario - Haiti and Cuba policy disasters, more disarray on health care or campaign finance reform - a Republican tidal wave could bring victories in the 7th, 2nd, 8th and perhaps even the 4th.

Here is a breakdown of Indiana's 10 congressional races:

1ST CD

U.S. Rep. Pete Viscloskey is safe, although an energetic Republican and self-made businessman named John Larson has Lake County Republicans talking about redefining the party's baseline vote there. **HPR outlook:** Viscloskey, at a slightly lower plurality than in '92.

2ND CD

Joe Hogsett went on TV Aug. 30 and will stay there throughout. The ads feature his Rushville roots and

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and his cost-savings as secretary of state. "Joe is prepared to stay on from the time he went up through Election Day," said his press aid, John Koenig.

The McIntosh campaign responded in a clunky way to Hogsett's media splash, releasing a June poll showing him up by 14 points.

But the real story here is a McIntosh campaign that seems out of kilter. Fund-raising lagged throughout the summer and it will be essential for the Republican to match Hogsett's media buy by the week's end in order to make the Sept. 15 PAC cut, when political action committees decide who to finance during the homestretch.

McIntosh spoke early on of tying Hogsett to Clinton, something Hogsett's camp will earnestly resist. Hogsett will portray himself as a "real" New Democrat while Clinton strayed. Two weeks ago during the crime bill sequence, there was a slight switch in McIntosh's public stance. Instead of making Hogsett out as a Clintonite, the Democrat was framed as a potential freshman at the mercy of Tom Foley, Dick Gephardt and Vic Fazio.

A visit by Dan Quayle on Sept. 13 in Muncie will be McIntosh's best bet to refocus the campaign and reignite the family values issues.

But there are other troubling elements this Republican will have to deal with.

One is Al Hubbard's acknowledged "fishing expedition" for Hogsett's office phone records. "Certainly, there is nothing to hide," Koenig reported. "Joe turned those records over yesterday (Sept. 1) and there was more than he asked for. I think what they're going to find are phone calls with people going about their work."

It will be embarrassing for the McIntosh camp if Hogsett is pronounced "clean." It would make it seem as though family issues wouldn't be enough to derail Hogsett, and that it would really take some dirt to do the job.

Hogsett will be quoting a June McIntosh fund-raising letter inviting prospective donors to join the "Day One

"Chris Wilson made himself an issue and I think McIntosh made him an issue..."

- John Koenig

Club." Those donating \$1,000 were promised "special quarterly briefings." The attempt will be made to portray McIntosh as out of reach of average people.

Finally, there is Chris Wilson, Bill Frazier's campaign manager, who jumped from Frazier after that vitriolic campaign over to McIntosh. Left behind were Wilson quotes like this one on the source of McIntosh campaign funding: "...many of whom are lobbyists, political consultants, individuals representing foreign governments and lawyers. That makes me wonder who David will represent when he gets to Washington."

Said Koenig, "I think Chris Wilson made himself an issue and I think David McIntosh made him an issue." If McIntosh dumped Wilson, he would look wishy-

washy. The prospect here is that the McIntosh team will have to take some lumps because of Wilson.

In their favor will be connecting on the family issues, a late Quayle foray, and a stumbling Clinton creating a massive GOP tidal wave that might swamp even Joe Hogsett. The wild card is all the money Hubbard has been raising for the state committee. A key question will be how this jackpot will be put to in-kind use on behalf of people such as McIntosh, John Hostettler and Mark Souder.

HPR outlook: Hogsett without Haitian invasion; McIntosh with.

3RD CD

Second-term Democrat Tim Roemer is safe. Rich Burkett has failed to ignite Republicans. It will take a Bob Buetter or a Terry Holt give Roemer a contest.

4TH CD

Here is the long-shot upset in the making. Third-term Democrat Jill Long is widely seen as fairly safe, although Washington analyst Stuart Rothenberg mentioned a GOP tidal wave as a possible threat.

Observers over the spectrum have expressed surprise that Mark Souder has been so quiet. "I expected him to have more money and be a little more agile with the free press," said Chris Sautter, a consultant retained by Long, Michael Harmless and Frank McCloskey. Two radio spots from the Long camp seen as "negative" prompted Sautter to say, "You never deliver your own negatives. That may backfire. People are being more turned off by the messenger.

Sautter adds, "It's incumbent on the challenger to make a strong case for change and he hasn't done that yet. He hasn't gotten Jill off her game plan."

What may be widely ignored is that Souder is a different kind of candidate. He's a policy wonk and while many were critical of his anemic fund-raising, campaign official Stephanie Hartzell explained that Souder has done his own research, whereas Long has paid \$35,000 to retain a consultant.

Souder appears to distrust the news media. John Hostettler's challenge in the 8th CD has been fueled by free media, but Hartzell explained, "We didn't get a lot of media early on, so we decided to lie low. It isn't until Labor Day weekend that people start paying attention. Anything before that is in vain."

Souder will attempt to portray Long as a headline conservative, and a liberal in fine print. "On key votes with a lot of media attention, she will vote the way the district wants," Hartzell said. "But we tracked her record along with Dick Gephardt, socialist Bernie Sanders and Joe Kennedy. She ranks in the 80 percentile with Kennedy and Sanders.

Souder will stress Long's Democratic affiliation. He will try to tie her to the Clinton administration. "She was on the Democratic Leadership Council," Hartzell said. "She was Clinton's campaign co-state chairman. She was the

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HPR Interview

McCloskey says he's confident... but that 'recount' word is there

FRENCH LICK - HPR sat down with U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey on the veranda of the French Lick Springs Resort on a sweltering 90-degree Saturday.

McCloskey already had hosted a breakfast for supporters and updated 13th CD Democrats on the status of his re-election campaign. He would later conduct town hall meetings in Jasper and Mitchell.

McCloskey was first elected to Congress in 1982 after serving 11 years as mayor of Bloomington. His 34-vot win in 1984 is the closest election in congressional history and after a lengthy recount, he was seated on a party-line vot . McCloskey has since gotten wins of 53, 62, 55 and 53 p rc nt.

Here are his thoughts on health care, his re-election, and...those dreaded recounts:

HPR: Can you get us up to speed on how your campaign is going?

McCloskey: I'm feeling confident and optimistic. I can just tell you from my experience over the last several days, overall political interest is picking up. There is tremendous turnout at meetings and events. And I can tell you after spending three full days in Evansville with a very full schedule th re that there's increased political interest. I s ns a good broad-based support from both Democrats and R publicans. Basically I'm going to be working around th clock. I think an 8th District race is easily more competitive than your average race and I never underestimate anyone . As Bobby Knight said, play to your potential and not have a recount.

HPR: Your opponent has tried to portray you as a liberal out of touch with your district; in particular, your support of a single-payer plan in health care reform.

McCloskey: As far as being a liberal and out of touch, basically that's been said by every Republican I've defeated and I'm going for my seventh term. I don't see how any fair p rson could say I'm out of touch with the district. I've been re-elected several times, so some people must think I'm in touch. I don't get much in the way of confidence from my opposition (laughs). I hardly ever do.

HPR: As for the single-payer proposal?

McCloskey: I think we've got 100 members of the Hous who hav endorsed the single-pay type of plan und r th guis of the McDermott bill. We don't think single-payer health care reform will comprehensively be enacted in the near future. I believe in it. I think it needs to b d bated. Th public needs to be more educated as to what it is and what it isn't. Th Clinton plan did not feature it. I am not for a r plication of th Canadian plan. We're a different country with a different society, different needs, history and traditions. Basically, th best thing about a sin-

gle-payer plan is comprehensive coverage r gardless of income, job status and social positioning. Everybody is covered. No one suffers from economic catastrophe as far as medical bills. In a Canadian-type plan, it is divers . It's gotten some bad press in the United States. Some \$80 million has been spent in the last year against health care reform of any sort. Hopefully, we can get something done this year as far as exclusion due to pre-existing conditions, portability. Before too long, maybe not this fall, we can do something to cap out-of-pocket expenses. I think in the long run it may be a transition of six, eight, 10 y ars.

HPR: Incrementally?

McCloskey: In any system where you have public support you're going to have some conditions covered and some not. In our present system, there are limits that can be paid out to any one person. There's not \$10 million for every person with every condition. That goes on now. W ration people to their detriment by failure of access. I think the attitude that everything is fine with our present syst m is a farce.

HPR: Critics are pinpointing the cost and th bureaucracy with the Clinton health care plan.

McCloskey: Well, no matter what, whether public or privately, there is a medical bureaucracy. I never co-sponsored the Clinton plan. The obvious thing there is it would have broken up many health alliances on a mandatory basis. That would have been a political mistake. I'm hopeful Harry and Louise will take a break over the winter holidays.

HPR: Will a Republican tide emerge this election?

McCloskey: I was just talking about that. I hav fairly sensitive antennae as to people's attitudes. No doubt we'll lose some House seats this fall. It's almost a given. I just don't see it to the heights of 30 and 40 and Republicans talking about new chairmanships and Hous Speaker Gingrich. There probably will be some there. I do not predict numbers, but I think 20 and possibly less. There is significant distress and hostility toward government and Congress, but I don't think it's coming down to the benefit of one party or the other. I don't think this will be a big watershed year. I sense Clinton is potentially more popular than his ratings are right now. We've had deficit reduction and lower interest rates. Clinton has tak n huge political risks. Bush went through four years and his whole public life without ever mentioning health care, except with regard to his checkups at Bethesda.

HPR: How long do you want to lead the life of a congressman?

McCloskey: I live in the community and kind of live and die with its problems. I believe in what I'm doing. I like people. I have things over th long t rm I want to accomplish. I do not think th idea of two-year congressional terms was th idea of most profound brilliance coming out of our founding fath rs. I like what I'm doing. I just hope th re isn't a recount.

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only member of the Indiana congressional delegation to sponsor the health bill. She was trying to be included in his Cabinet."

Sautter responds, "It's going to be hard for him to tie her to Clinton, when she voted against the most important thing to his presidency - his budget."

The wild card issue will be crime, and specifically crack cocaine. Since 1985, the emergence of crack has been a social catastrophe in Fort Wayne, sending neighborhoods into blighted tailspins, touching off numerous drive-by shootings, a swamping of the Allen County judicial and welfare apparatus, a record homicide rate in 1993 and a record pace this year. The issue is no longer a Fort Wayne problem. Crack and the accompanying street gangs are beginning to bleed into smaller district cities such as Kendallville, Decatur and Bluffton.

Crack cocaine has yet to become a congressional election issue here. "We have to tie it in," Hartzell said. "I think her crime record is questionable. Since she has been in Congress, her sponsorships have been basically designations - nothing substantive."

Long, however, did get rural crime funding into the crime bill and she was instrumental in establishing a Woman and Infant Child cocaine clinic, which she'll use to test the "nothing substantive" claim by Souder.

HPR outlook: Long, who has always done well with Republicans and independents. If she doesn't get ruffled over Souder's extensive research, she should survive.

5TH CD

U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer is seen as a Republican rising star. He is in a historically Republican district split among five media markets, making it unwieldy for challengers to compete.

He defeated Jim Jontz in 1992 with the help of union loggers from the Northwest, who helped split Jontz's labor base in Howard and Grant counties. His opponent is Howard County Sheriff J.D. Beatty, a 24-year cop who was critically injured during a pipe bomb blast in 1987. His campaign literature prominently features that incident. Not surprising, Beatty has made crime a central campaign theme, along with Buyer's aloofness.

A number of sources, however, have told HPR that Beatty's support among Howard County Democrats is soft, and he has to carry his home county to win.

HPR outlook: Buyer should be safe, particularly if any type of GOP wave materializes.

6TH CD

As controversial as U.S. Rep. Dan Burton has become over the whole Whitewater/Vincent Foster thing, Democrat Natalie Bruner doesn't appear to be a serious threat in this conservative district.

7TH CD

U.S. Rep. John Myers has a bright, talented Democrat opponent - by many accounts the best chal-

lenger in Indiana this year. He is well-funded, will likely make the Sept. 15 PAC cuts, and has been aggressive.

Michael Harmless' problems, however, may be the issues. He will attempt to paint Myers as a 28-year congressional dinosaur, out of touch, and wedded to the pork-riddled Capitol Hill committee system.

Myers has benefited from some good press coverage recently. A front page *Indianapolis Star* story in early August told how Myers brought millions of dollars in funding to Indiana colleges - with the caveat that the bucks were brought in frugally. Last week, a second *Star* front-pager had Myers as having the best record in the Indiana delegation for voting against federal spending.

"Mike doesn't argue that Myers has brought some projects to the district," Sautter explains. "But Myers has been very out of touch. He was appointed to the conference committee report on the crime bill and he never showed up. This shows a pattern."

But Myers campaign manager Jim Huston points to Myers' 98-percent voting record in the House. "He was at 99.5 percent this year. (Harmless) was attacking John when he knows John's wife has had three different kinds of cancer over the last decade. It's outrageous that he would engage in this kind of negative campaigning."

Huston says Myers will attack Harmless on his support for the Clinton-Mitchell health bill, the Clinton stimulus package and a crime bill laden with Great Society-styled social programs. "There will be a clear distinction in philosophy," Huston said. "John is clearly on the side of reducing the federal government. Harmless is for bigger government and bigger government spending."

Myers might be inclined to go after Harmless claims that most of Greencastle's revitalization occurred before the Democrat became mayor in January 1988. Sautter says he has ammunition to refute that, including a letter to the editor from Bob Hutchings, an economic development director who claims that Harmless was instrumental. "I've already filmed footage for commercials and he's in 'em," Sautter said of Hutchings.

Harmless' campaign recently was buoyed by Tippecanoe County polling results on behalf of State Sen. Mike Gery showing the CD race a "dead heat" there.

HPR outlook: Myers has got issues, name recognition and a beleaguered president going his way. But Harmless still has best shot to gig a Republican.

8TH CD

This is the "short shot" for the Republicans to get an upset win. Republican challenger John Hostettler carries with him an ability to be underestimated, resulting in his upset primary win last May.

McCloskey is always vulnerable, but, he says, "I'm still here." The difference, however, is that McCloskey has never had to defend his tenuous seat with a Democrat in the White House, let alone Bill Clinton, with whom he has parted decisively on such issues as Bosnia.

Early on, the Hostettler campaign seemed to

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stumble in the financing realm. But Hostettler spokesman Jeff Knight insists that, "We're not really worried about fund-raising. All mechanisms are in place to meet our needs."

Those "mechanisms" include upcoming campaign visits from Steve Goldsmith, Marilyn Quayle, Dan Coats and Richard Lugar - talent that to date is not headed to any other CD. Hostettler is also expecting \$28,000 in in-kind support from the Indiana Republicans and \$5,000 in cash. Knight said that will allow Hostettler to go the air with ads "three weeks out, maybe five weeks out."

Hostettler will attempt to portray McCloskey as a liberal out of touch. The recent National Taxpayers Union ratings showing McCloskey as the delegation's second highest spender (58th in Congress at \$65 billion) feeds right into Hostettler's game plan. Hostettler also will try to show McCloskey as "ineffectual" in getting a Doppler radar for Evansville.

Sautter, speaking on behalf of McCloskey, describes Hostettler as the most organized Republican "out of a weak (primary) field." He said the same dynamic - the Christian right - that won the primary for Hostettler won't have the same impact in the general election. "Making those people his centerpiece runs the risk of alienating other potential allies," Sautter said.

Responded Knight, "We hope they think that."

McCloskey will focus his campaign on job creation and "strong service to the district." Sautter acknowledges the Clinton factor. "Obviously we're operating in a national dynamic; we can't escape the national dynamic," he said. "We believe the people of Evansville are somewhat supportive of Clinton. The crime bill will be a plus."

HPR outlook: A GOP tidal wave could sweep

McCloskey in this volatile district (remember, the 8th switched congressmen in five consecutive elections back in the '70s). McCloskey, however, is a survivor and that can't be underestimated. Also, his mayoral base of Bloomington Township in Monroe County was added to the district, which will help.

9TH CD

As fine a state senator as Jean Leising is, defeating U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton has to be seen as a huge long-shot. By all accounts, Hamilton is safe. Leising should be building a presence for the time when Hamilton moves on or retires.

10TH CD

Andy Jacobs doesn't have to raise a cent to defeat Republican Marvin Scott, even with a Haitian fiasco.

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