

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“It’s easy to promise things when you’re in the minority....”

Don Michael, lobbyist for the Indiana Commissioners Association, on Democrats

Is Mayor Goldsmith having it both ways?

Modisett’s ‘out’ creates an opening; may spill GOP blood in primary

INDIANAPOLIS - Mayor Goldsmith? Gov. Goldsmith? No, this is not a scenario painted by the mayor’s evil twin brother. It’s very real and credible, particularly with Jeff Modisett’s pre-Cambrian-style (very early) withdrawal from the 1995 mayoral race.

Sources tell HPR that Modisett found pre-Nov. 8 polling numbers to be extremely positive...for not only Modisett, but Goldsmith. Sources say that Goldsmith’s own poll in December revealed an 80-percent favorable rating overall and 45 percent in black wards - the same area where Modisett’s unsuccessful 1994 re-election effort for prosecutor went off the cliff. Political, as well as personal realities (the ‘94 race against Scott Newman was grueling) led Modisett to take a job with Ice Miller Donadio & Ryan as an environmental and white collar crime specialist.

Modisett’s decision not to enter the race creates a unique opportunity for the one-term Indianapolis mayor. While the mayor has yet to do what Joe Hogsett promised in 1990 - to serve a full term - the issue of whether someone could run for one office with the intention of campaigning fulltime for another office the following year is very real. It was that scenario that ultimately dissuaded popular Allen County Sheriff Joe Squadrino from challenging Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke in the May primary.

Modisett would have posed a credible challenge to Goldsmith, despite the early polling numbers. He would certainly have pressed Goldsmith for a commitment to serve a full term, although that strategy didn’t work in Tim Jeffers’ run against Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy. Modisett’s exit leaves Indianapolis Democrats with the prospect of Marion County Chairman Thomas O’Brien making the challenge. Such an event, in the eyes of many Democrats and

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INSIDE FEATURES

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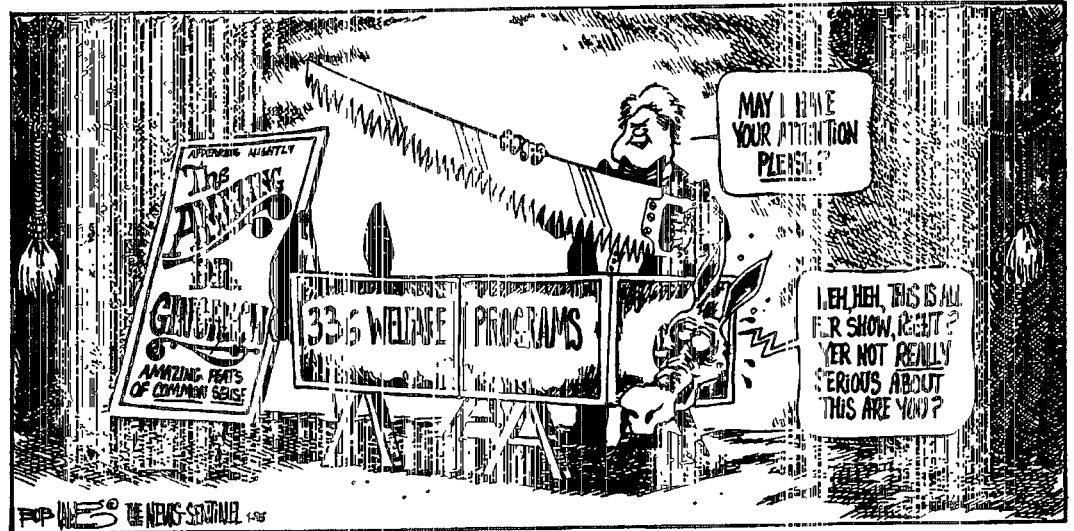
CONGRESS WATCH

Here are staff appointments and key numbers for Indiana's three freshmen congressmen:

JOHN HOSTETTLER Curt Smith, chief of staff; Nancy Juday, legislative director; Harold Gutzwyler district director, Evansville; Tom Washburne, counsel; Denise Crum, office manager and scheduler; Susan Millet, Bloomington office. DC office 202-225-4636; fax 202-225-3284.

MARK SOUDER Ziad Ojakli, chief of staff; Diego Ruiz, deputy chief of staff/policy director; Robin Bertsch, special assistant; Dawn Gerson, scheduler/office manager; Holly Harle, senior legislative assistant; Patty Mackin, legislative assistant; Amy Adair, legislative assistant; Mark Wickersham, district director; Marilyn Waffle, director, constituent service. DC office 202-225-3021; fax 202-225-3479; Fort Wayne office 219-424-3041.

DAVID MCINTOSH Devin Anderson, chief of staff; Mark Epley, legislative director; John Steele, legislative assistant; Angie Orem, staff assistant; and Steve Austin, district director. DC office 202-225-3021; fax 202-225-3382; Muncie, 317-282-4613; fax 317-747-5586.



A new day for Hoosier Congressmen

"Very strange."

No, that wasn't the Beatles singing the song "Penny Lane." It was U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer's comment on the mood in Washington as the "Republican Revolution" began taking root in Washington.

Hoosier Republicans moved front stage center last week, with the local news media focusing primarily on the three freshmen - U.S. Reps. John Hostettler, David McIntosh and Mark Souder - although Buyer and U.S. Rep. John Myers received plenty of ink as well.

The *Indianapolis Star's* George Stuteville recounted how McIntosh's day began before dawn, when he and wife Ruthie "prayed together" and "asking only that the Lord's will be done." Then it was off to the barber before he put on his favorite tie with a gold silhouette of President James Madison. Upon arriving at Capitol Hill, McIntosh was greeted by former Attorney General Edwin Meese III, who had hired McIntosh at the Justice Department years before.

Sylvia Smith of the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* also zeroed in on the personal aspects of Souder getting set. It was described as a pinch to end a dream. "I said, 'Can you actually believe this is happening and they're not taking this away? It's all been so surreal,'" Smith quoted Souder.

Smith described Souder's studio ap art-

ment as a sea of beige with a "drab view of a parking lot and office building."

The excitement over mundane things quickly gave way to the huge task ahead. McIntosh is expected to be cast near the center of the Revolution once Congress moves from tax cuts to deregulation, where the Muncie Republican will chair a subcommittee.

Thursday of this week, Souder would be joining Senate colleagues to begin discussing unfunded mandates.

Hostettler was described by Stuteville as the Hoosier who would cast the first vote for Speaker Newt Gingrich. Like Souder, Hostettler made the day of revolution a family affair with kids in tow. "You know someone asked me if there was anything more important than this event," Hostettler told Stuteville. "I told him there was nothing more important than having and caring for a family. That's the only reason I'm here."

Not that all the attention went to the freshman. U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, who can justly claim to be ahead of the curve on reforming Congress, urged his colleagues to make the happenings of Jan. 4 an on-going thing.

"We ought to take it up every year," Hamilton told David L. Haase of the *Indianapolis News*. "I was very disappointed that we didn't vote on these things last year. We should have. I regret that we did not."

"If you stop and think about it, that's really at the heart of people's complaint today, that the government doesn't work too well," Hamilton said. Not so strange.

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Hevrdejs & Conklin, *Chicago Tribune* - We've been assured by those close to Bobby Knight that the tempestuous Indiana coach sympathized with Newt Gingrich's problems with CBS-TV's Connie Chung. When she was with NBC-TV several years ago, Chung taped an interview with Knight in which he made a distasteful remark about rape. Afterward, apparently realizing his mistake, the coach asked her to please edit out the comment. She didn't, and the interview touched off a national furor. We were tempted to call Knight for a reaction Thursday, but his team lost to Iowa by 19 points the previous night and, as one of his friends said, "Even on a good day the mention of Connie Chung will touch him off."

David L. Haase, *Indianapolis News* - U.S. Rep. John Myers let it out that his rotten relations with House Speaker Newt Gingrich go back to 1989 and the ethics investigation of former Speaker Jim Wright. Gingrich made the charges against Wright and demanded an ethics probe. Myers sat on the Ethics Committee as a senior Republican and decided to hire an outside attorney to run the probe. "That's where we first fell out," Myers said. "Newt wanted to select that attorney. I guess I wasn't very - you know - gracious with him as I should have been. I laughed at him. I said, 'You're not serious. After all, you're the indicter and also want to hire the judge that makes the investigation,

the prosecutor.' He was serious. I told him that's impossible. So he and I have never hit it off since then."

Deborah Sederberg, *Michigan City News-Dispatch* - When U.S. Sen. Dan Coats spoke to steelworkers at Bethlehem Steel, he seemed none too anxious to cozy up with the Newt speaker, at least on the Head Start issue. Coats apparently believes independent studies that say Head Start works. The speaker says he wants to cut Head Start funds, but Coats says he'll urge Republican colleagues to "not throw out the baby with the bath water."

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - Tim Roemer isn't with it. He'll probably show up at an embassy reception in Washington wearing a lime green double-knit leisure suit. What's hot and what's not in '95? A tax cut is hot. Just about every Washington politician from the somewhat reformed pit bull, Newt Gingrich, to the seemingly lame duck, Bill Clinton, is for a tax cut. Roemer is not. "We are promising to buy you a double cheeseburger every day for 365 days just to get your vote in the next election. The best tax cut for the middle class is deficit reduction," Roemer said, fearing bigger deficits again. "They all keep a poker face each trying to outbid the other. I'm trying to convince my colleagues."

TICKER TAPE

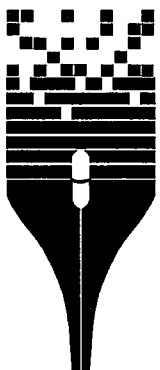
NBC's **Tom Brokaw** spent time in Muncie (Middletown USA), talking to three families about the looming political changes in the nation. He also did a stint for "Late Show with **David Letterman**." Brokaw stood on the Ball State campus and said, "Whatever you do, David, just send money."

This week's "Periscope" section of *Newsweek* explores the political impact of former Vice President **Dan Quayle's** health problems. It notes an "unreported" leg clotting episode "late in his vice presidency," a bout with phlebitis in 1993, and the tumorous appendectomy. While it says the health problems shouldn't hurt his '96 presidential run, it quoted a GOP pol as saying, "If something else happens, it will be tough."

Quayle wasn't the only Hoosier to get a mention in *Newsweek*. U.S. **Rep. Dan Burton** took a rap in "Conventional Wisdom." With the arrow pointing down, CW said, "Rep. wants to sack volunteers who answer First Cat's fan mail. Put a Socks in it."

Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon on Network Indiana's **Mike Pence Show**: Pence: "Are you a conservative Democrat?" O'Bannon: "I'm a market-oriented Democrat." On a governor run, O'Bannon said, "We're putting our staff in position. We do have an office putting together the scheduling and fund-raising."

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TICKER T A P E

Cam Simpson has left the Evansville Courier for a Statehouse position with the Indianapolis News. Taking over for the Courier is **Greg Andrews**, formerly with the Indianapolis Business Journal. **Dan Rosenberg** is the new government/political writer for the Michigan City News-Dispatch. He is from Chicago.

Prosecutors say politics had nothing to do with misdemeanor marijuana charges against **Danny L. Burton II**, 19, son of **U.S. Rep. Dan Burton**, being dropped. The dismissal was part of an agreement to have the younger Burton plead guilty to felony pot possession charges in Louisiana. "What we did was kind of a package deal," Deputy Prosecutor Michael Jensen told the Associated Press.

Former **Rep. Frank McCloskey** hasn't ruled out a 1996 rematch with **Rep. John Hostettler**. McCloskey, 55, joined the Indianapolis law firm of Cohen & Malad. Former **Rep. Jill Long** will teach agriculture at the John F. Kennedy Center at Harvard University during the spring semester. **Joe Hogsett**, as HPR exclusively reported in its Dec. 22 special fax bulletin, has joined Gov. Bayh's office as a senior adviser.

Golden Rule Chairman **J. Patrick Rooney** is set to report that his employees will be receiving bigger refunds from his Medical Savings Account health insurance option for

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Indiana mayoral elections are beginning to heat up.

Indiana's municipal elections are heating up. Two key races - Democratic primaries in Gary and Michigan City - will all but be decided in the May 7 primary.

Here are the earliest sketches on key mayoral races HPR will be watching:

GARY State Sen. Earlene Rogers did preliminary polling in September prior to her announcement. "That was part of my decision," Rogers said. "I ran well ahead of everyone."

Winning the May Democratic primary is tantamount to victory.

Three others have entered the race: Scott King, who finished third in 1991; former Judge Charles Graddick and Steve McMath. But the man most likely to give Rogers the stiffest challenge is State Rep. Charlie Brown. He has a campaign committee in place and will make a final decision later this month.

Brown believes Rogers' close ties with Barnes may cause some problems. "Is the city that progressive to elect three females in the three top city jobs?" Brown asked, noting the city clerk and judge are female.

Rogers claims the front-runner position not simply because of the polls, but "in terms of people who have expressed support."

Brown said Barnes, who decided not to seek a third term after polls showed him losing, would have had to spend \$250,000 to win. "I don't think it will take that much now," he said.

As for issues, "It's jobs, jobs, jobs," Brown said. "Gary is dying on the vine. That's the reason there is so much crime. There is a thirst for jobs and survival."

FORT WAYNE This is an intriguing race because of what didn't happen. Elements of the Indiana Policy Review Foundation tempted Allen County Sheriff Joseph Squadrito to enter the race.

There were some factions of the Republican Party that felt Fort Wayne "needs a

general, not a mayor" after enduring two consecutive record homicide years.

Squadrito resisted the temptation. He was just re-elected sheriff and felt he had an obligation there. He would also have lost pension money. And there were concerns that while the "tell-it-like-it-is" Squadrito makes for a popular sheriff, he might not translate too well as a mayor.

Helmke has wide support within the GOP and the city, for that matter. Despite the homicide rate, overall crime is down 15 percent and in almost every category. He has held the line on property taxes. There have been new fees for garbage pickup and a CEDIT levy. But taxpayers will see tangible results from those, particularly by Election Day 1995 after CEDIT funds dedicated to fixing the city's roads start pouring.

Democrats are in disarray here. They lost an Indiana House seat

and were bitterly disappointed in Jill Long's loss. She was severely hurt by a big dip in support in Fort Wayne's core. There has been a quiet movement to get County Chairman Don Brogan to step aside. Party regulars appear to be ceding the mayoral race, and are alarmed at the prospect of losing the city council, where they lead 6-3. The only Democrat council candidate thus far is Steve Corona, director of the local Job Works program and a member of the Fort Wayne Community School Board. But he was severely damaged in black wards last summer after a local black administrator was passed over for superintendent. Helmke should easily win renomination and the election.

TERRE HAUTE The Democratic fiefdom of power politics was stung last November when three Vigo County legislators were upset by conservative Republicans. The 1995 primary will be an indicator as to how deep the cracks are in this Democratic fortress.

Four-term Mayor Pete Chelos, 67, announced his re-election bid in 1993. He will



campaign on his record and an agenda to spur economic development, including the I-641 bypass that would connect I-70 and U.S. 41 around the southeastern edge of the city. But there are doubts about Chelos' viability because he defeated Republican George Ralston Jr. by only 1,000 votes in 1991.

With DNR Director Pat Ralston declining to run, Chelos' main challenger will be James R. Jenkins, 46, who won two terms as Vigo County sheriff without the blessing of the party.

Observers are predicting a spirited primary battle, and at this early point Chelos is not assured of victory. No Republicans have surfaced yet, despite the 1991 near-miss and last November's legislative successes. With Vigo County GOP Chairman Jim Bopp a strong contender to be state chairman, there is an urgency to find a viable candidate to try to continue their success.

ELKHART Republican Councilwoman Carol McDowell is expected to challenge three-term Mayor James Perron. McDowell, who owns a metal plating firm, worked with the Perron administration on a successful sewer discharge ordinance. But since she joined the council in 1991 she and Perron have had a rancorous relationship.

Perron has been embroiled in controversies surrounding the Elkhart Police Department for two years. McDowell has pushed for more police officers and was initially denied, but Perron funded six new officers in the current budget. Other Republicans who might enter the race are perennial candidate Jack Donis (who has lost twice to Perron) and developer Jack Tuff.

SOUTH BEND-MISHAWAKA There have been no credible challengers to surface against two-term South Bend Mayor Joe Kernan, a Democrat, and three-term Mishawaka Mayor Robert Buetter, a Republican. Kernan is frequently mentioned as a potential lieutenant governor candidate.

LAFAYETTE Seven-term Democrat Mayor Jim Riehle, 61, is expected to seek re-election. He suffered a heart attack in 1992, but has quit smoking and appears to be healthy. Riehle would like to preside over the completion of the

railroad relocation project.

His probable opponent is the popular former Republican Tippecanoe County sheriff, Dave Heath, who moved into the city last year.

MICHIGAN CITY Two-term Mayor Robert Behler will face a Democratic primary challenge from Councilwoman Sheila Bergerson, and possibly from a black candidate such as Councilwoman Virginia Martin.

Bergerson claims that Behler hasn't done enough to lobby for city interests, such as casino gambling, and has maintained a hands-off approach on the city's school crisis (eight of the 16 schools are on probation).

Observers see a Behler-Bergerson race as a potential barn-burner. A black candidate could dramatically change the dynamics of that race. Republicans haven't run a candidate since 1983 and aren't expected to this time.

MUNCIE Republican Mayor David Dominick, 34, who upset two-term Democrat James P. Carey in 1991, didn't like the job and will not seek re-election. A crowded Democratic primary is likely with all eyes on Carey. Five other Democrats are thinking about the race, including Councilman Winston Brandon, City Clerk Jack Donati, former sheriff candidate Kenneth Davenport, and Charles Richmond, a former police officer who was fired last week as city 911 center director.

On the Republican side, Robert Stephenson has left his job as a court bailiff, paving the way for a potential candidacy. Former Mayor John Hampton, who served in the 1960s, is also considering a run.

EVANSVILLE Democrat Mayor Frank McDonald once said two terms would be enough. He apparently has changed his mind and observers expect him to announce for another term. The popular McDonald defeated State Rep. Vaneta Becker with 58 percent of the vote in 1991.

Becker's name surfaces, along with County Councilman Taylor Payne and businesswoman Lori Harrison, but no one has made any declarations.

McDonald, at this point, looks very strong.

TICKER T A P E

1994. In 1993, Golden Rule refunded \$468,000, an average of \$602 per employee. On Thursday, Rooney & Company will show off even bigger windfalls.

Gag order: **State Sen. Frank Mirvan** and his opponent, Republican **Sandy Dempsey**, were ordered not to speak to **Sens. Richard Bray, Richard Thompson and Earlene Rogers** by Senate President Pro Tem **Robert Garton**. That trio has been charged with looking at 1st Senate District ballots "blind" in an attempt to resolve who won that election. Garton's move pleasantly surprised Democrats and even Republicans, who believe 1st District voters in the Hammond area are going to get a fair shake.

Rep. John Myers tried to shake the speculation that his loss as chair of the House Appropriations Committee made him a blood enemy of Speaker Newt Gingrich. In announcing his ye vote on nine dramatic reforms on Opening Day, Myers said, "Make no mistake about it: We are going to fundamentally transform how Washington does business."

How conservative are **Reps. David McIntosh** and **Mark Souder**? On the day of the Republican Revolution, Souder did a stint on G. Gordon Liddy's national radio show, while McIntosh did Rush Limbaugh where Tony Snow called him "doctor of deregulation." The word on the Hill is that after the GOP gets done seeking a middle class tax cut, McIntosh will be at center stage as they target deregulation.

Leising felt she could have beaten Hamilton with State GOP help.

HPR INTERVIEW

"My failure in the campaign was that I didn't convince Al Hubbard...."

- Jean Leising

"I actually believe that for a couple of hours, Lee Hamilton thought he had lost...."

- Jean Leising

INDIANAPOLIS - Perhaps more stunning than the Republicans picking up three Indiana congressional seats last Nov. 8 was how close they came to winning the 9th and 10th CDs.

State Sen. Jean Leising lost to Rep. Lee Hamilton by a 52-48 margin, the closest battle in his career, while Republican Marvin Scott lost to Rep. Andy Jacobs by a 53-46 percent margin. HPR sat down with Leising last week in an empty Indiana Senate chamber to talk about the near upset, missed opportunities, and a possible rematch in 1996.

HPR: In the latter stages of your campaign against Lee Hamilton, did you believe you had a real shot at an upset?

Leising: Basically there were two things going on. We could sense a real strong grassroots effort. I was getting calls daily from county chairmen saying, "Oh my gosh, Jean, Joe's got one of your signs in his yard and everyone knows he's a Democrat." We were getting all kinds of those reports from across the district. We felt the momentum was really rolling. My last poll (in August) the campaign had done showed we were doing very well in the area where I was best known. In fact I was ahead in those counties where people clearly knew who Jean Leising was. I was still behind in those areas where I didn't have the strong name ID.

HPR: Did you know about the polling the state and national committees were doing?

Leising: I didn't even know about that. That happens in campaigns when the state committee will do polls to decide who they're going to support with the last party money. My last poll showed that if I could get Jean Leising known with hard enough name recognition in the remaining counties, then we'd win the race. The national committee did a poll using Frabizio-McLaughlin in late September and the Neil Newhouse Poll was done two weeks before the election. Both of those polls had me,

in a head-to-head with Lee Hamilton, significantly behind.

HPR: But you were seeing something entirely different on the trail.

Leising: The thing is, my campaign didn't do those and I never really had the detailed results. Both of those, from what Al (Hubbard) told me was that I didn't have a snowball's chance. Frabizio had me in the 30s and Newhouse had me in the 20s, which I would have questioned had I known about them. Especially on the Newhouse Poll so close to the election because I was told early in this election that a duck can get 30 percent. In my view, Newhouse should have questioned their own results. Something was screwed up.

HPR: What did that mean for Jean Leising?

Leising: I didn't know the poll had been done. I didn't know the results. I was begging for support from the state committee because we felt we had a shot and we knew we needed Louisville television money and we didn't have it. We had money from grassroots support, but we didn't have party or PAC money. The frustrating part for me was when I went to the state committee and said we can win, all I need is Louisville TV money so I don't get killed in Clark and Floyd counties, they were basically looking at those poll results and saying, "We can't waste good Republican money."

HPR: What did you learn from this?

Leising: Obviously it's not encouraged my confidence in polls. With my farm background, and you're selling grain, there are two sides of the grain market. There's the fundamental side which is whether it's raining on the corn. And there's the technical side: what's going on at the Chicago Board of Trade. If you're going to price your corn, you have to pay attention to both sides. I was seeing all the symptoms of success in a campaign because I had never lost before and I didn't have any proof. And Al would look

at races from the technical side. If we had a true analyst, they would say Jean is wrong because she was counting too much on what she was feeling and hearing and Al was wrong because he didn't go into the district and relied strictly on the polls. I would like to find out why those polls were so wrong.

HPR: By mid-October, the money was starting to pour into the three districts the GOP did win. Did you realize that was happening?

Leising: Yes. And it was very hard because I recognized we had only one failure in the campaign. My failure in the campaign was that I did not convince Al Hubbard. What they didn't do was the homework I had done before I ran, which is to learn how out of sync Lee Hamilton really was with his constituents. They wouldn't have been surprised by the anger that was out there.

HPR: What was it like on Election Night.

Leising: On Election Night at 9:30, I knew I had lost. At that time, my campaign office had overflowed onto the street. It was frenzy. CNN had us nationally ahead. I got my mom and my three kids aside and I said, "I gotta tell ya, we lost." My mom said, "What do you mean?" I took my kids to the map and said with a third of the vote in, this is where we need to be in Clark County and this is where we are now. Looking back on it now, I actually believe that for a couple of hours, Lee Hamilton thought he had lost. I remember reporters calling me on Election Night. They could hardly hear me because of all the noise. They were telling me that Lee Hamilton wasn't taking calls and that his campaign headquarters was like a morgue because there was no background noise.

HPR: A lot of Democrats hit the wall in the last two weeks of the campaign. Did you see any signs from Hamilton's campaign that they were in trouble?

Leising: We had two debates, one in New Albany and one in Connersville. On the Monday morning after the Connersville debate two weeks before the election, the Hamilton campaign canceled every joint appearance we would have, whether it was on the radio, or a

luncheon or in a group.

HPR: Did you report that to the state committee?

Leising: Yeah, I did. That message never got out to the masses. I think it was smart politically for Lee Hamilton, because it allowed him to go into a hole those last two weeks. It protected him from making more mistakes. He lost his cool during debates. I really got under his skin. At the New Albany debate, he kept going over his time limit and they broke in on him. He's been congressman for 30 years and nobody ever has told him to shut up. He's never really had any competition.

HPR: Will you challenge him again in '96?

Leising: I sent out a questionnaire after the election, and people overwhelmingly want me to run again. But I think the bigger thing I've got to look at is state support. You can run for the (state) Senate as an individual. What I didn't understand is you really need the blessing of the state committee when you run for Congress. You can't get maximum support from the national without the blessing from the state. I didn't understand that. Now we're looking at a new state chairman. I'll have to make that decision in the next couple of months. The one thing I learned is that you have to know your state chairman.

HPR: When will that decision be made?

Leising: A decision has to be made in the next six months. Not everybody who presents themselves as a candidate can win. But I think that one of the things the people in our party need to learn is to look at the candidate you've got and whether they match the district philosophically. I don't think the party does a real good job at that. I matched the 9th District really close.

HPR: Would you run in a year when you'd have to give up your Senate seat?

Leising: If I do it again, it will be in 1996.

HUMOR

M I L L

Wendellisms, by Wendell Trogdon, *Indianapolis News*

"Thank goodness for the media. How else would Americans know a simple appendectomy shouldn't derail Dan Quayle's political career?"

"Some Indiana lawmakers are awed by their new laptop computers. They haven't figured out how to run the mimeograph machine yet."

"Legislators should like their computers. They won't leave a paper trail."

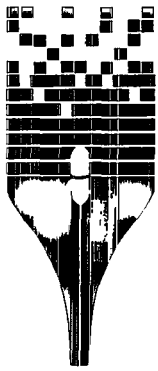
Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce

Honorable, *adj.* Afflicted with an impediment in one's reach. In legislative bodies it is customary to mention all members as honorable; as, "the honorable gentleman is a scurvy cur."

Meekness, *n.* Uncommon patience in planning a revenge that is worth while.

Oath, *n.* In law, a solemn appeal to the deity, made binding upon the conscience by a penalty for perjury.





SPECULATIONS THOUGHTS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

By Morton J. Marcus

There are great expectations building up that this new Indiana General Assembly will do some momentous things:

■ Property tax reform is high on the agenda. Many organizations believe that now is the time to get a revision in the tax code favorable to their point of view. But usually when the property tax is "reformed" there is a shift of power to the central government away from local government. As other taxes are raised to replace the property tax, the state seems to acquire more control over local affairs. Is it possible that true conservatives will end up opposing property tax reform?

■ Some business groups believe that the state's environmental and labor regulations can be relaxed by a legislature more favorable to business. The assumption is that Republicans are more favorable to business than Democrats. In truth, many Hoosier Republicans and Democrats are very much inclined to support legislation that favors small business. Big business and big labor are seen as the dangerous elements in our economy. Reformers would do well to concentrate on regulations that can be represented as detrimental to small enterprises looking for success.

■ Worker training programs will be popular with all sorts of new tax credits and revised programs being suggested to meet the current "labor shortage." This is a hard sell. Lip service is cheap, but most businesses are not prepared to engage in serious worker retraining. In addition, we have only limited knowledge of what really works in this area and very limited capacity to do the job. Yet, if the legislature fails to act on this now, business conditions may ease and the impetus for a significant program to increase productivity may be lost for years.

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Frankfort Times

Indianapolis Business Journal

Indianapolis News

Kendallville News-Sun

Muncie Evening Press

Michigan City News-Dispatch

New Castle Courier-Times

Newton County Enterprise

Peru Tribune

Shelbyville News

Wabash Plain Dealer

Goldsmith continued from page 1

Republicans HPR has talked with, lacks credibility.

That allows Goldsmith to make a case to voters that he must run for mayor in order to protect it from the Old Guard, which would like to see many of his reforms reversed. It also would allow Goldsmith to raise a lot of money, spend just a portion of it for his re-election while heading into the 1996 gubernatorial primary with a hefty war chest in excess of a million dollars.

The real key to a 1996 Goldsmith gubernatorial run - and he's undecided about that at this point - is already under way and will climax in the May primary. Informed sources tell HPR that Goldsmith is recruiting Republicans to clear the Old Guard GOP off the city/county council, where members such as Stuart Rhodes, Stephen West, Cory O'Dell, Philip Borst, Linda Beadling and Beulah Coughenour have proved to be the chief obstructionists in his reform program.

Goldsmith is attempting to develop his own slate of council candidates for the May

primary. The scenario here is that each member of his slate would get \$5,000 to pump two pieces of direct mail into every Republican household supporting the "Goldsmith Team" with dire warnings that reforms could come to a halt if it fails.

Should the "Goldsmith Team" win, the mayor would call on a humiliated Marion County Republican Chairman John Sweezy to resign. The following six months would be used to dismiss a couple hundred precinct committee officials indentified with the Old Guard. With that achievement, Goldsmith could then be confident of controlling the caucus process in choosing a successor should he go on to win the 1996 GOP gubernatorial nomination and defeat Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon in the fall.

Accomplishing this would be a tall order, but Goldsmith has shown a propensity for this kind of political gambit, as occurred last year with the success of the Indianapolis school board slate he backed in an attempt to rein in what the mayor sees as skyrocketing taxes the board controls.