

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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Upsets, resilience mark mayoral races

Chalos, Behler out; Pastrick survives

Every time Gary mayoral candidate Scott King booked a campaign event in the past few weeks, the location had to be changed because the event was oversold.

It was an omen of the most surprising of upsets during Tuesday's mayoral primaries. King, a white Democrat, won the Gary Democratic mayoral primary and will face Diane Ross Boswell, a black Republican, this fall.

It was one of three surprising finishes along the southern rim of Lake Michigan. In neighboring East Chicago, an effective advertising campaign - "A City That Works; a Mayor That Makes It Happen" - patterned after Mayor Richard Daley in Chicago (including the use of the same announcer), gave Mayor Robert Pastrick a win over former Lake County Sheriff Steven Stiglich. In Michigan City, Councilwoman Sheila Bergerson upset two-term Mayor Robert Behler by 67 votes to become the first female nominee in the city's history. Behler said he may have lost the election because "we resisted the temptation to go negative."

And in Terre Haute, four-term Mayor Pete Chalos was defeated by Jim Jenkins, possibly reigniting the once-powerful Democratic machine in Vigo County.

GARY: Going into the primary, former Judge Charles Graddick, who was endorsed by former Mayor Richard Hatcher, was seen as the favorite. But King won the primary on a message of change. "The prevailing force of Gary politics is personalities. A lot of people have grown tired of the personalities around here," said Peter Blum, editorial page editor for the Gary Post-Tribune. "King wasn't affiliated with any of them."

While King won on a platform of change, voters in this city that is besieged with budgetary woes, high crime, lack of regular

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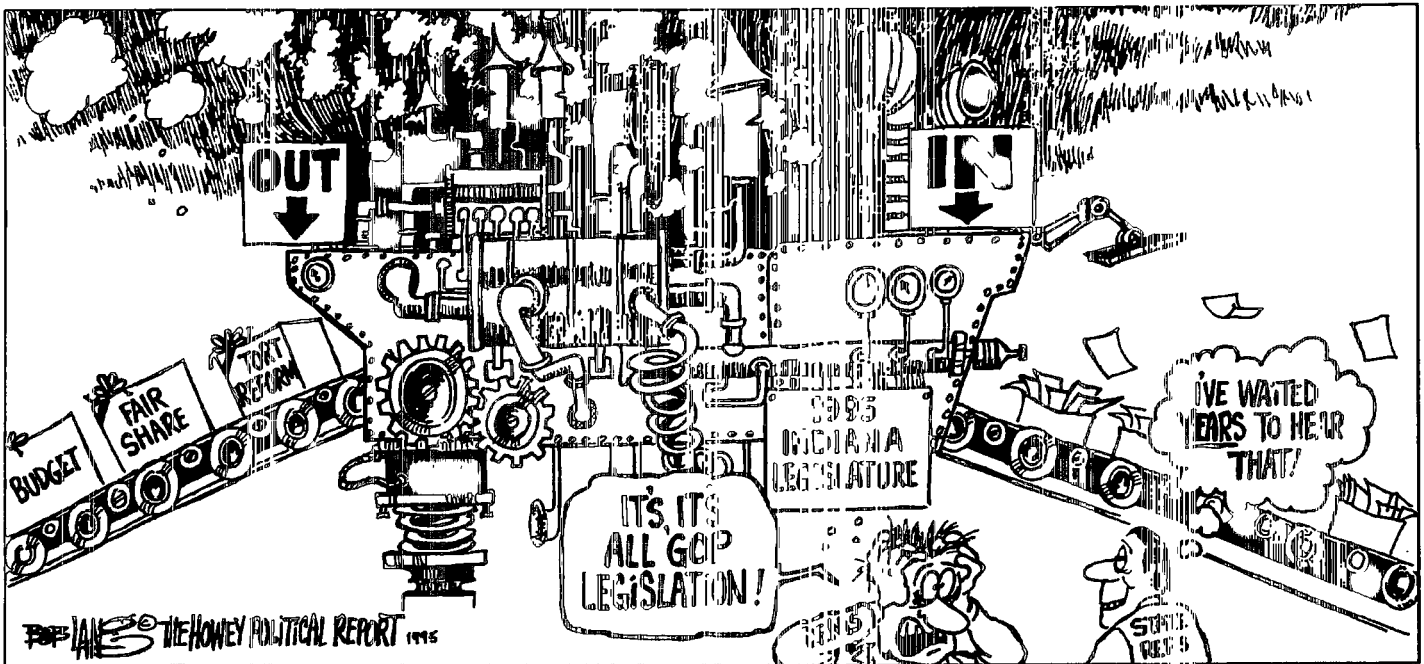
"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"The governor looked like he had practiced the F-words in front of a mirror...."

- Unnamed Democrat legislator on Gov. Bayh's unexpected outburst before the caucus.

INSIDE FEATURES

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HUMOR

MILL

Wendellisms

by Wendell Trogdon
Indianapolis News

The state hasn't had a tax hike in years...a feat some liberals will blame on the governor's lack of imagination.

The Legislature adjourned after four months to allow you to spend the next eight trying to figure out what they did.



Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce

Truce, *n.* Friendship.

Kill *v.t.* To create a vacancy without nominating a successor.

Liar, *n.* A lawyer with a roving commission.

Soap gun helps Pastrick persevere

from page 1
garbage pickup, and looming casino gambling votes, renominated seven of nine council members. "The message is conflicted," Blum said.

Normally in Gary, winning the Democratic primary is tantamount to election. But Blum suggests that Boswell, a deputy in the Lake County prosecutor's office, is the first credible Republican candidate ever. There is a huge registration advantage in Democrats over Republicans, but area newspapers were peppered with letters from blacks saying they won't vote for a white candidate.

That may prompt either Hatcher, the first black mayor elected in 1967, or State Rep. Charlie Brown to get into the race as an independent.

Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel said after his election in February that mayoral elections would be a priority this year. Will the state GOP attempt to help Boswell? "We've got to look at it," McDaniel said. "We'll be sorting these things out."

EAST CHICAGO: When pollster Doug Schoen gauged this race a month ago, it was a dead heat. Figuring the undecideds would break toward Stiglich, Mayor Pastrick was told to expect the worst.

Stiglich started his campaign with bill-

boards around the city that stated: "24 years is enough." The problem was, Stiglich didn't follow up.

Pastrick's media adviser, Chris Sautter, used the old Daley slogan to bolster Pastrick with eight mailings, 3 1/2 weeks of radio and two weeks of cable TV advertising. The real killer was the TV ad.

When Stiglich was sheriff, an inmate used a piece of soap fashioned into a gun to break out of the Crown Point jail. Pastrick's ad noted that 60 years ago legendary bank robber John Dillinger escaped from the Crown Point jail using a wooden gun. The ad ended by asking, "If Stiglich couldn't run the jail, how can he run the city?"

It fashioned a 49-37 percent win for Pastrick. "Stiglich won the first 30 days of the campaign, and Pastrick won the last 30 days," said Sautter. "Fortunately, those are the days that count the most."

MICHIGAN CITY: Bergerson's historic victory didn't come without some tense moments. With 19 out of 20 precincts reporting, Bergerson led Behler by 40 votes. For 20 stressful moments, both campaigns waited until WIMS-AM reported that Bergerson had won that precinct by 27 votes. (Dan Rosenberg,

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Ostragnai and 'unconventional wisdom'

FORT WAYNE - I had to chuckle when I opened my Wednesday edition of the

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Indianapolis Star to see a letter to the editor penned by one Thomas Ostragnai of Fort Wayne. Ostragnai is what journalists in newsrooms across the state would call a "gadfly" or a "character" (to use the more polite terms). I first met him when he ran for the legislature in 1992 when I worked for the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette. He drove a souped up car with a nutty horn. He approached issues so unconventionally that while my colleagues at the J-G and later at WKJG-TV saw him as strictly on the fringe, there was just enough sense to take him seriously.

While at the newspaper, Ostragnai became my pistol-packing guide as we cruised the Fort Wayne crack and whore districts looking to make some sense of the cocaine catastrophe sapping the state's second largest city. He would routinely produce hours of clandestine video of pushers at work. Later, Ostragnai printed up hundreds of "Save a Child: Report a Drug House" bumper stickers. Several of these stickers adorned Statehouse cubicles of legislators.

Ostragnai eventually became one of the most successful citizen advocates in Indiana. He pushed a "drug den" ordinance pioneered in Portland, Ore., and later in South Bend as an anti-crime measure. It eventually passed in the Fort Wayne City Council, thanks in part to Ostragnai's persistence at council meetings, in the letter to the editor columns, and on local cable access. Once while scanning the cable, I caught Ostragnai waving his gun in front of the camera, only to pause and assure viewers that no one was behind the lens. In a "don't try this at home" disclaimer, he explained the camera was simply propped up on a stack of books.

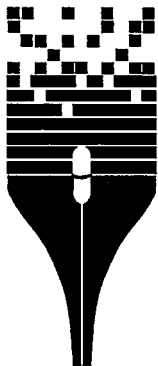
Tuesday night, Ostragnai won a Republican nomination - unopposed - in Fort Wayne's 6th Council district, after he had abandoned a run for mayor under the slogan, "Lock 'em up and throw away the Helmke." While other candidates were piling up hundreds and thousands of votes, there was a "7" next to his name for much of the night. He ended up with 646 votes.

His chances of winning this fall seem slim, although the Democratic incumbent polled only 959.

What we have here, in a sense, is the triumph of unconventional wisdom.

HPR publication schedule

HPR is switching from a Macintosh computer system to PC. The next edition will be published on May 18.



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TICKER T A P E

Is **Sen. Bob Garton** running for governor? "We'll be making that decision sometime this summer—either early or late summer," Garton told HPR. Garton said there will be three criteria going into the decision: "Is there anyone on the horizon that can do it better? Do other people believe that? And can I put an organization together to do it?"

HPR asked Garton and **Speaker Paul Mannweiler** in Fort Wayne on Monday to put the widely reported contention between the Senate and House Republicans in perspective. Garton chuckled and denied any rift at all. "That's the kind of thing you find in the *Howey Political Report*," he said.

Dan Quayle is on record as saying he won't run for anything but president. But **Dave Kitchell** of the *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* quotes IU pollster **Brian Vargus** as suggesting that if **Sen. Dick Lugar's** Senate seat opens up, and a Republican wins the governorship, "It is not without plausibility that Quayle may take a look at that. He obviously needs something to give him a national pulpit if he wants to run for president in the year 2000." Vargus includes **Garton** and Indianapolis **Mayor Steve Goldsmith** on his list. If **Frank O'Bannon** wins the governorship, Vargus has **Gov. Evan Bayh** and **U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer** on the Democratic short list.

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TICKER

T A P E

Fort Wayne had quite a week on the celebrity speaker's list. First was an appearance by former **Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders**. Then came columnist and sage **William F. Buckley**. Finally last Saturday night was **G. Gordon Liddy**, whose appearance was marked by bomb threats and demonstrations. The Garrett High School prom was moved from the botanical gardens next door to the Embassy Theater speaking site because officials feared more bomb threats.

Liddy Highlights: The G-Man received a standing ovation when he explained how his wife confronted a home intruder with a revolver, telling her children, "Children, watch Mommy make the bad man's head explode."

Buckley highlights: Speaking on the Oklahoma City bombing, Buckley said, "There are a lot of loony people in America. One has to hope they are mutants." Buckley also said he is through writing spy novels.

David L. Lantz, state director of the Christian Coalition, penned a letter to the *Bloomington Herald-Times* complaining about a story on a survey his group distributed to city candidates. "What saddens me is that you ran this exercise in Christian bashing on the day commemorated as the crucifixion of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." Lantz added that similar surveys by the Bloomington Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Coalition or the Indiana National Abortion Rights League did not receive similar scrutiny

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O'Bannon camp believes he was targeted, came away unscathed

INDIANAPOLIS - When the prevailing wage showdown occurred late last month in the Indiana Senate, Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon was at the cusp of controversy that could either have damaged or propelled his 1996 candidacy for governor.

When Sen. Pat Miller walked off the floor, he removed the tie-breaking decision from O'Bannon.

But late last week, when prevailing wage took center stage, it was Gov. Evan Bayh, Ben Ramsey of the Building Trades Council and the Republicans who hammered out the compromise.

Was O'Bannon cut out of the decision-making?

"I'm unaware of any involvement," explained Bill Schreiber, O'Bannon's chief strategist.

That left some Statehouse wags wondering whether O'Bannon was simply left out of the power picture, or whether, if a vote had come up and O'Bannon had voted against prevailing wage, would Bayh have undercut him the same way he did on the beer baron bill earlier in the administration.

"Earlier on, he had indicated that if the question had come to him out of a tie, he said he would have voted against modifying the law," Schreiber explained. But after the 11th-hour negotiations, Schreiber indicated that O'Bannon supported the final agreement.

"It's better than what might have been, but not as good as it was," Schreiber said. "He would have preferred it to be left alone."

As is the case with the pitfalls facing Sen. Bob Dole in Congress, some Republicans and lobbyists have speculated that a series of tie-breaking votes might have seriously damaged O'Bannon's candidacy. "That clearly did not happen," said Schreiber. "To the extent of derailing Frank O'Bannon, they failed."

While O'Bannon took a back seat in the final days of the legislature, Schreiber predicted that the lieutenant governor will "take a consistently higher profile" in the administration.

He rejected talk that Bayh is being less

than supportive of the O'Bannon candidacy. "Frank is going to be running on the record of the Bayh-O'Bannon administration over the past eight years. While the governor maintains his popularity, there will be some osmosis. I don't want Bayh to become a recluse. I want him to be publicly visible and real active as his administration comes to an end."

■ **O'BANNON NOTES:** Here's how Schreiber views the Republican gubernatorial field to date:

■ **Pat Rooney:** "People underestimate Pat Rooney - his purse and his perseverance."

■ **Rex Early:** "Rex is a bit of a junkyard dog. But I don't go into a junkyard without looking first."

■ **Steve Goldsmith:** "Goldsmith is the new 800-pound gorilla now that Dan Quayle is out."

■ **Bob Garton:** "He came out of this session in pretty good shape."

■ **George Witwer:** "He's a good fellow, but my instinct is that, historically, a person who wants to be governor rarely wins the first time out, with the exception being Evan Bayh. Bowen, Welsh, Branigan and Orr were not successful initially. It wouldn't surprise me if George Witwer is a Republican candidate for governor sometime after 1996."

■ **The news media:** "I think people need constantly to look at the calendar. So many people seem to think it's October of 1996. This election is still 18 months away."

■ **O'Bannon and House Minority Leader John Gregg** will be appearing at the Allen County Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner Friday in Fort Wayne.

O'Bannon can expect to find the Democrats who attend to be pushing former U.S. Rep. Jill Long as his lieutenant governor candidate. Long is currently teaching at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Sources tell HPR that Long may be more inclined to seek a place on the ticket rather than seek a rematch against U.S. Rep. Mark Souder in the Republican-oriented 4th CD.

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

John Krull, Indianapolis News - The strutters at the Statehouse played out the last act of a farce this week. Like much farce, it wasn't far removed from tragedy. The focus of the play was Senate Bill 311, which would require a woman to wait 18 hours after an initial consultation before she could receive an abortion. It is tempting to suggest that Gov. Evan Bayh played the part of a fool, but in classic theater fools often are characters of disguised dignity and courage. The governor claims to be pro-choice. But, when he finally vetoed the bill, he did so on the narrowest and most equivocal grounds imaginable. He said that his problem with the bill was that it did not create an exemption for victims of rape. Another player might have sensed that this was an opportunity to claim the stage and argue powerfully for a woman's right to make her own choices about her body, her health and her life. But that would have required a fool's courage of conviction, and that our cautious governor lacks.

Mary Dieter, Louisville Courier-Journal - It's unfair to begrudge Republicans the spoils of their election victory last November. They won; they deserve the chance to use their renewed power to enact their agenda. But taking care of traditional constituencies is one thing; trampling on everybody who isn't just like you is another. Indiana has just witnessed the most mean-spirited, spiteful legislative session in years. If you are white and male and white-collar and an adult and a business executive and healthy, you are fine. In fact, the legislature probably made your life easier. But if you are a woman or blue-collar or a child or poor or an accident victim or a victim's survivor or a union member, the message seems to be that you are just not deserving.

Dick Robinson, Terre Haute Tribune-Star - Noises heard in the Statehouse back corridors are the spin doctors preparing for what comes after the lawmakers call it a session. Proud Republicans will wave their Contract With Indiana as proof of promises kept regarding less government, lower spending and no tax

increase. Democrats will say Republicans got government off businesses' backs and put the burden on children, seniors, consumers and working folks. It wasn't clear what voters wanted to be different. State taxes haven't risen in eight years. Job creation is up and unemployment is down. Indiana leads neighboring states in business creation. And there'll be a state general fund surplus when the fiscal year ends. What's to change?

Alan Julian, Evansville Courier - The Indiana General Assembly is about to change the way government does business in Hoosier cities, and some people think it's a change for the worse. With little fanfare, legislators have passed a bill that would allow any city employee also to hold elected office in that same city. In other words, any employee could hold two lucrative positions in city government at the same time. "This is the worst law ever passed by the Indiana legislature in its entire history," says Dick Lythgoes, a local government watchdog who also belongs to Common Cause. "It will lead to corruption across the entire state." He also thinks legislators were sneaky in the way they guided the bill through the House and the Senate. It started out as a bill dealing with beer wholesalers and retailers, but was stripped and recrafted to its current form.

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Many in extreme groups, those who have taken to the woods with arms to fight an imagined enemy, may not know any better. They really believe Russian troops are in this country practicing house-to-house searches, getting ready for the day when weapons and freedoms are taken away from law-abiding Americans. Hey, some have spotted those Russian troops in Michiana. Mysterious black helicopters, too. Not all are nuts. Inevitably, however, some of them carried their attack on "the government" to the extreme - to bombing a building. Unless, of course, you believe the bombing was the work of Bill Clinton or George Bush, or maybe both of them working in conspiracy with Dan Rather and the pope.

TICKER TAPE

When it comes to use of the "F-word," Hoosiers probably think of such expletives coming off the lips of **Bob** and **Tom**, or copy editors at any metropolitan daily newspaper. But it was **Gov. Evan Bayh** who unleashed the blue language when he was summoned to a Democratic caucus last Friday. **State Rep. Mark Kruzan** prompted the outburst as angry Democrats expressed disdain for the compromise on prevailing wage. A caucus source tells HPR that, "Evan Bayh came down to scream at us first." The source added: "The governor looked like he had practiced the F-words in front of a mirror" prior to meeting with the caucus. The source said Bayh's outburst conjured images of a **Mark Twain** story, when his wife used the blue language in order to show the famed author how bad it really sounded. Twain reportedly responded, "Right words, but you can't carry a tune."

Since HPR has gone from the out-house to a literary streak just at a time when liars in the legislature head for Hoosier golf courses and fishing holes, it seems time to recall a story that author **Louis A. Warren** tells in his book "*Lincoln's Youth: Indiana Years 1816-1830*." Late one night young **Abraham Lincoln** and his brother, **Dennis Hanks**, were talking about one of the few books they owned back in their Spencer County days: "*Arabian Nights*." Hanks criticized the future president's fondness for the book, calling it "a pack of lies." To which Lincoln responded, "Mighty fine lies."



Engle's concern over GOP rightward shift began shortly after election

HPR INTERVIEW

"Prevailing wage, tort reform and fair share became the big, decisive issues and they were never even mentioned as part of the Contract...."

Barb Engle

"I thought, wait a minute, we all should be able to vote our conscience...."

Barb Engle

During the evening of the last Monday night of the 109th Indiana General Assembly, State Rep. Barb Engle confided with an Adams County friend that she was considering a switch to the Democratic Party. In her mind, the Republican Party was leaving her and other "moderates" behind.

The next day, several IU lobbyists standing outside of Speaker Paul Mannweiler's office were talking with Pat Kiely and he asked, "What did you think about Engle's announcement?" a reference to Clyde Engle of the Higher Education Commission.

Rep. Engle was astonished to learn the rumors of her departure from the GOP had spread through the Statehouse halls like wildfire. "I couldn't figure out where it came from," she said. "How would anyone know." It became reality Saturday night, when she announced it to the full House.

HPR talked with Rep. Engle, who had left Decatur as a Republican and returned as a Democrat.

HPR: Going into this session, I was wondering how you would fit in to a much more conservative caucus. Was there an evolutionary process that prompted your party switch?

Engle: Early in the session, the Contract bills were there and I think that those were the ones the emphasis was on, although I had some problems with parts of them. I felt those were legitimate and we could deal with those and work with them. Throughout the art of compromise would come forth. I didn't feel I was the only moderate in the caucus. But once those got through, the influence became more definite of the more conservative members of the group as far as running the caucus. They were forcing the speaker into some of these issues. There didn't seem to be through the process of prevailing wage and tort reform this compromise concept. It was really a "it's going to be this way" and "it's going to go through." There were some in the caucus on prevailing wage that said, "Let's keep it on its own. Let's not put it in

these other things." It became very frustrating because you couldn't pull apart the legislation so we could work with it.

HPR: Let's go back to Nov. 9, when the Republicans woke up and found themselves in control. When did you get the feeling there was a real conservative curve coming?

Engle: I was surprised with the majority, the big majority we had. I thought 51 or 52 was possible. With the 56, I began to wonder what kind of majority it really was. I didn't meet the people until we went down in November. After meeting with some of them in November, I began to see this was going to be a very, very conservative group. They really felt there was a really strong mandate from the people and that their issues were really the ones people wanted addressed. I guess I felt all along it wasn't a strong mandate from the people for those kinds of issues. It was a landslide. It wasn't so much on issues. So I began to get some concern after that.

HPR: When you arrived in January, did you talk with Speaker Mannweiler and leadership about how you were going to deal with this?

Engle: Paul had talked to me earlier about being a committee chairman. I expected that with his knowledge of where I had been before, there was a basic understanding that I wouldn't be stretching my values from before. Most of the first half went fairly well, with the 30 days and the Contract bills. Then it seemed to take a total change.

HPR: George Wirtzler had been advising many of these conservative freshmen he assisted last fall to vote their conscience. Did Speaker Mannweiler and the leadership tell you or other caucus members to do the same?

Engle: No, he never said anything to me other than once the Senate bills started coming over, after I had my amendment on the prevailing wage issue he said several of them were upset because I was in leadership that I could vote my conscience and they didn't feel that was right. I thought, "Wait a minute, we all should be able to vote our conscience." But he did tell me

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that he was going to, because of their input and feelings - and I can't tell you who they were - but that he was going to have to discipline me in some way, that he wasn't going to assign bills to my committee right away. I took that as they might eventually assign some, but they never did. I finally told Paul, you do what you need to do. I'm not going to be upset with that. I'm not going to fight you. At that point, that really wasn't hurting my constituents. But then as the process went on, the straw that really broke the camel's back was I had a House Bill that was a student records bill. He assigned people other than myself as conferees. One of them sat next to me - right there in your face, you know? I felt that was really poor for my people because my voice would not be heard in that conference committee.

HPR: What was that like after serving as a Republican for 13 years?

Engle: I consider Paul Mannweiler really more to the moderate side. On the purely political issues that came up for a vote, I always tried to be there. This year, that group that came in here seemed to make a difference on my being disciplined for my votes.

HPR: Speaker Mannweiler said Monday that you had voted against the party on most of the "defining issues" this session.

Engle: I think Paul has been pulled to the right. If you look at what the decisive issues were at the end, they were not the same as the ones in the contract. Prevailing wage, tort reform and fair share became the big, decisive issues and they were never even mentioned as part of the contract.

HPR: After you were disciplined, did you talk with Dan Stephan?

Engle: I talked with Dan a lot. My thought was, should I just resign from my chairmanship. He told me, "No, no, don't resign." I thought, if something is going to happen, let them remove me.

HPR: Are there moderates in the party that are discouraged as you were?

Engle: I don't know of anyone else thinking of doing this kind of thing. I think there are some who are very discouraged: Dan, Jerry Bales, Vaneta Becker, Ralph Ayres. I think those are people who are very discouraged with the process.

HPR: Is there a place for moderates in

this Republican Party?

Engle: At this point, I'm really concerned about that. As I said on the floor the other night, I really don't think I'm leaving the party. I feel that it left me.

HPR: How did you finally decide?

Engle: Monday night I made up my mind. I had some friends down from home. I told them I needed to talk this out. He didn't advise me either way. I weighed the pros and the cons and in my mind, just came to this conclusion.

HPR: Did you then talk to John Gregg?

Engle: I talked to him on Wednesday and he told me that they would welcome me into the caucus.

HPR: Did anyone from the Republican caucus approach you once the rumors flew?

Engle: No one approached me. No one tried to talk me out of it, which was also a hint. Bruce Munson came to me Saturday morning and asked me if anyone from leadership had seen me. He told me he regretted that no one had talked to me and asked if it would make a difference now. I told him no, because they waited too long.

HPR: Will you seek re-election?

Engle: Yes, I plan to seek re-election.

HPR: Do you see yourself going from a moderate to liberal Republican to a conservative Democrat?

Engle: I suppose I would say a moderate to conservative Democrat. A lot of people switch because they are gaining power. I really hope people realize I'm not gaining anything as far as power. I'm doing strictly for the philosophical views of where I am. I really feel that's where a majority of my constituents are. I hope I'm not misreading them.

HPR: Had you considered switching before?

Engle: I was one the Democrats had approached during the 50/50 split. There were three or four they talked with, as well as some the Republicans talked with on the Democratic side. That's really the only time. They didn't come to me and beg me to do it.



TICKER

T A P E

Speculation on who Republicans might run against **State Rep. Barb Engle** is centering on Adams County **Commissioner Mike Ripley**, who ran for the GOP 4th CD nomination in 1994.

There are several other interesting legislative races shaping up for 1996:

Kokomo: Sources tell HPR that former Republican State Rep. Brad Bayliff has moved into State Rep. Jon Padfield's district and is talking about a challenge as a Democrat. Outgoing Kokomo Mayor Bob Sargent and former Mayor Steve Dailey are also weighing a run against Padfield.

Indianapolis: Look for Eddy Mahern to challenge Irene Heffley and 1994 secretary of state candidate Tim Jeffers to seek the seat held by Martha Womacks.

Terre Haute: Former State Rep. Vern Tincher is already aggressively seeking to regain his old job against David Lohr.

Fort Wayne: Defeated State Rep. Ben GiaQuinta is yearning for a rematch against State Rep. John Becker. If he doesn't run, his son Phil GiaQuinta might. Another possibility is Geoff Paddock, who waged a good race against State Sen. John Sinks in 1992.

Boonville: Several Dems are considering a run against State Rep. Sally Rideout Lambert, although former Speaker Michael K. Phillips hasn't ruled out a rematch. Said one Dem, "Michael keeps growling, and when he does that, everyone goes back in their cages."



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- Fountain County Neighbor*
- Frankfort Times*
- Indianapolis Business Journal*
- Indianapolis News*
- Kendallville News-Sun*
- Kokomo Herald*
- Muncie Evening Press*
- Michigan City News-Dispatch*
- New Castle Courier-Times*
- Newton County Enterprise*
- Peru Tribune*
- Shelbyville News*
- Sullivan Daily Times*
- Wabash Plain Dealer*

Helmke, McDowell win GOP races

from page 2
Michigan City News-Dispatch).

It prompted her supporters to chant, "Sheila! Sheila!" She told the throng, "To those who supported my opponent, I ask you to come together and work with us to put Michigan City first and politics last."

Just before the speech, Rosenberg reported, Behler "plowed through the hot, smoky, densely packed room to shake his opponent's hand."

When Bergerson finished her speech, State Rep. Tom Alevizos yelled, "Let's all go to Ryan's!" and the thirsty crowd cheered.

TERRE HAUTE: It was change over experience when former Vigo County Sheriff Jim Jenkins defeated Chalos by a 57-35 percent margin. Jenkins won all but eight of 61 city precincts. Chalos told his supporters to support Jenkins in the fall, when he'll face Republican Mark May, who polled only 773 votes, compared to 6,896 for Jenkins (Erik Christianson, Terre Haute Tribune-Star).

"I don't think anyone in this administration has anything to feel defeated about or to feel remorse about," Chalos said. Jenkins told his supporters, "This is just one step. There's an election in the fall."

Vigo County Republican Chairman Jim Bopp conceded, "Things are tough in Terre Haute" for Republican candidates.

Jenkins' victory is significant in the context of statewide politics. He made a tradition of bucking the Vigo County Democratic machine, which bottomed out last fall when it lost three legislative seats. If Jenkins can revive the Democratic machine, McDaniel concedes it will make re-electing freshman Reps. David Lohr, John Kimmell and Sen. John Waterman much tougher.

FORT WAYNE: Republican Mayor Paul Helmke cruised through the GOP primary with 75 percent of the vote and will face Wayne Township Trustee Thomas Essex, who polled 68 percent. Helmke won with 7,717 votes, compared to 4,056 for Essex. Some Republicans had suggested that Helmke might be in danger because of ties with the Clinton administration.

But Helmke said he had always made tough decisions that he felt benefited the city. "When you make decisions, you make enemies. I've caught flak because I've been doing what I think is right for this city," he said.

ELKHART: Going into the Republican primary, Councilwoman Carol McDowell was the odds-on favorite to challenge three-term Democratic Mayor James Perron, mentioned by some as a potential 1996 lieutenant governor candidate. But former Elkhart County Commissioner John Bentley entered the race and attracted support of many influential Republicans.

McDowell handily defeated Bentley with 73 percent of the vote (Stephanie Gattman, Terry Mark, Elkhart Truth). They reported, "The Perron/McDowell matchup appears to be shaping up as the most intense race in the fall election." Perron vowed to reach every city household.

MUNCIE: Former Mayor James P. Carey won nomination on the Democratic side, along with Republican Dan Canan. McDaniel said that when current Mayor David Dominick decided not to seek re-election, he feared the GOP would lose the office. "But I think we have a good shot at retaining it since Carey won," said McDaniel.

GOSHEN: Democratic Mayor Mike Puro faces former party colleague Ron Hoke, who switched to the GOP in 1991. The two served on the Goshen City Council together.

BLOOMINGTON: Former City Councilman John Fernandez defeated former Monroe County Commissioner Charlotte Zietlow by only 31 votes. He will face City Councilman Kirk White, who defeated John Lee Smith, a Republican backed by the Christian Coalition. That campaign was marked by accusations of unethical questionnaires.

ANDERSON: Mayor Mark Lawler survived a controversy over a police gambling raid on April 21 and defeated Councilwoman Linda Haynes. Lawler will face Republican Councilman Greg Grahann.