

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“She’s left of Lenin, and I’m not talking about John....”

—Jim Knoop, Virginia Blankenbaker’s 10th CD campaign manager, on Julia Carson’s web page which advocates college scholarships for convicts and non-violent criminals volunteering in hospital emergency rooms.

Fall gubernatorial campaign begins

Goldsmith, O’Bannon working television

INDIANAPOLIS - At 7:29 p.m. Thursday, Mayor Stephen Goldsmith will be in the national spotlight, addressing the Republican National Convention just prior to the Dole-Kemp ticket.

But more than 48 hours earlier, Lt. Gov. Frank O’Bannon commenced his paid TV campaign, and top aides pronounced the fall gubernatorial campaign had begun.

Additionally, the fight for the Indiana House of Representatives is beginning to heat up, with Republicans and Democrats accusing each other of conducting push polls. Both caucuses indicate that the themes of those House races will begin to publicly take shape within the next two weeks.

O’Bannon’s TV ad centers on the Bayh-O’Bannon administration’s efforts to reform welfare. It will point out that Indiana welfare numbers have dropped by 30 percent in the last two years.

The TV ad campaign coincided with a campaign stump blitz aimed at earned media on Tuesday and Wednesday, when O’Bannon and running mate Joe Kernan conducted press conferences in Crown Point, Terre Haute, South Bend, Fort Wayne, Sellersburg and Indianapolis to announce a four-point plan that they claim will cut \$1 billion in taxes while leaving \$1.4 billion of the state’s surplus intact.

“We just think it’s important to define the race early,” O’Bannon campaign manager Tom New told HPR. “We’re not only doing this press conference today, but we’re going up on the air a little earlier than Democrats normally do. It’s not a high buy. It’s around 500 to 600 gross rating points, but we think that over time as we start to build that up it will have a nice cumulative effect.”

The TV ads will run in all Indiana markets except Chicago, Cincinnati and Louisville. Asked whether the campaign was up on TV for good, New responded, saying, “It’s safe to say the fall cam-

continued on page 8

INSIDE FEATURES

- Play of the Week: Bob Dole on Kemp page 2
 - Horse Race: Copenhagen, Engle in trouble page 3
 - HPR Interview: Dem strategist Dan Parker pages 4-5
 - Columnists: Spaw, Kitchell, Ullmann, Cady page 6
 - Perhaps We Wander: Evan Bayh’s speech page 7
- Indiana’s fastest-growing source of political news*



TICKER T A P E

PLAY OF THE WEEK! Sit down: Take a deep breath. OK, ready? Bob Dole gets the play of the week for selecting Jack Kemp as his veep. Probably the best possible choice of those available. But the danger was evident when the ticket landed in San Diego. The delegates were excited to listen to Jack Kemp. They left when it was Dole's turn to speak.

In an age when most small businesses don't survive beyond a year, HPR finds it worth noting that we have completed our second year of publishing, and that this issue commences Volume 3. Expect 40 issues of some of the most intriguing political developments in Hoosier history.

Continued on page 3

Quayle putting Carmel home up for sale; Hoosier delegates applaud Kemp selection

SAN DIEGO - Dan Quayle, we hardly knew ye.

WRTV's Norm Cox broke the story that not only is Quayle buying a home in Arizona, he's selling the one he has in Carmel.

"If you'd like to buy it, I'd like to sell it to you," the former vice president said.

Does that mean Quayle would become an official resident of Arizona, where golfing is available 12 months a year? Cox reported that Quayle might stay registered to vote in Huntington.

As for future presidential aspirations (Indiana is kind of crowded with presidential timber, counting Lugar, Bayh and, if elected, Goldsmith), Cox asked conservative guru Bill Kristol if Quayle was viable. "Oh sure," Kristol said of his former boss. "He was right about family values."

On Friday night - the eve of the Jack Kemp announcement - Quayle joined Geraldine Ferraro on ABC's *Nightline* to talk about vice presidential timber. "You are constrained," Quayle told Ted Koppel about the limitations of the job. "You have to submerge not only your

agenda, but your ego. You can't even say it to your staff because it will leak out."

Koppel asked Quayle, "You didn't even have your own staff?"

Said Quayle, advising Kemp, "Make sure some of the staff is your's and that loyalty goes both ways."

As far as not having his own staff, Quayle said, "I did that in '88, but I didn't do it in '92."

Hoosier delegates were pretty ecstatic about Jack Kemp joining the ticket. Allen County Chairman Steve Shine said, "I'm delighted. Jack Kemp epitomizes conservatism wrapped in compassion. He will be an attribute to the ticket and appeal not only to conservative Republicans, but Reagan Democrats and independents."

Goldsmith called Kemp "an exhilarating choice" and added, "Jack Kemp more than any other person showed how the free market created opportunity for citizens and cities."

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats said the choice would "light a fire in the Republican ticket that will sweep across the country."

**Kemp is Dole's '9',
but speech may pale
after Steve Goldsmith**

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: The latest presidential polling shows Clinton leading Dole by 20 points as the Republican convention began in San Diego. But the convention is one big TV studio with most controversy optioned off to Jerry Springer. If Dole-Kemp delivers, this bump could be big.

PRESIDENT

Bill Clinton, D Leans D
Bob Dole, Rep
Ralph Nader, I
Ross Perot, Ref

Dole-Kemp is a "9" as opposed to the Colin Powell "10." The problem for Dole is that he doesn't become upstaged by the energetic Kemp. And all the euphoria that has gripped the GOPpers in San Diego could collapse if Dole blows it with a slackjaw speech following Goldsmith.

GOVERNOR

Stephen Goldsmith, R Leans R
Frank O'Bannon, D
Steve Dillon, L

IU Poll shows Goldsmith leading by 8 points. Earlier Mason-Dixon poll had Goldsmith up by 6. So just as O'Bannon is pulling up, Goldsmith gets national primetime exposure at the apex of the Republican National Convention. Don't expect O'Bannon to get similar role in Chicago.

7TH CD

Ed Pease, R Leans R
Robert Hellman, D

Pease evasive on debates. Hellman setting the standard for white paper on the issues. His problem is getting media coverage. Watch for Pease to keep hand close to vest and then bust out in late October, just like John Myers.

54TH HOUSE

Tom Saunders, R LEANS R
David Copenhaver, D

What we have here is the Henry County GOP chairman challenging Copenhaver in his first election (he was appointed by fill Doug Kinser's seat last year). All the signals are pointing toward a Saunders victory unless he get swamped in a Clintonian tsunami.

79TH HOUSE

Mike Ripley, R TOSSUP
Barb Engle, D

All indicators are that this is a real barnburner taking shape. Ripley is a popular Adams County commissioner taking on one of the only Republicans to switch parties nationally. HR senses the GOP is looking for a payback.

Horse Race Key: Safe means assured victory; Likely is outside 10 points; Leans is between 4 and 9 points; Tossup is within statistical margin of error. Status in bold/caps means a change.

**TICKER
T A P E**

The Kemp selection was universally hailed by Hoosier Republicans. Vanderburgh County GOP Chairman Joe Harrison Jr. said "He was the person I was hoping would be elected from day one. He's got a diverse background, he's articulate. I think the media likes him, and he's the pre-eminent authority on supply-side economics and tax cuts."

As HPR reported several weeks ago, President Clinton is expected to cross through Northern Indiana by rail on the way to the Democratic National Convention at Chicago's United Center. Clinton is expected to leave the train at Michigan City and arrive in Chicago via boat.

The Vanderburgh County Election Board will send 22 ballots with questionable signatures to the prosecutor's office for possible action. The ballots were cast during the May primary in Evansville. This follows 36 questionable ballots in the 1995 Evansville city election. Said GOP Chairman Joe Harrison, if more questionable ballots turn up, it would show "a continuing pattern of problems" with mail-in ballots and could convince the Indiana legislature to change the law regarding mail-ins.

Mayor Stephen Goldsmith told
continued on page 5

Democrat's Dan Parker sees party leading or tied in challenger races

HPR INTERVIEW

"We won the House in 1992 by less than 1,900 votes. In 1994, a banner year for Republicans, they won the House by only 2,100 votes. I think it's going to be that close every single year under the current maps. This will be determined by a couple of thousand votes statewide"

- Dan Parker



MUNCIE - Dan Parker, Indiana Democrat House Caucus director, was cruising Middletown, USA on behalf of Tiny Adams, the Democrat seeking the 34th House District seat occupied by James Vanleer.

Parker didn't know it, but he was about to be engaged - via HPR - with his Republican counterpart David Bottorff over the question of which party's polls were right and who was using the negative push question tactics.

Bottorff told HPR that he sees Republican House members leading between 54 and 57 races at this point. And he accused Parker and the Democrats of spinning their public opinion surveys with push questions. Thus, the phone call to Parker.

HPR: The Republicans are telling me they believe they are leading in up to 57 House races, all of the '94 freshmen are in competitive races and that they may be able to defeat Dick Bodiker, David Copenhaver and Barb Engle. Your response?

Parker: They're leading in 57 seats?

HPR: That's what they're saying.

Parker: Well, our polling shows that were in a competitive races in at least 12 challenger races.

HPR: What races are those?

Parker: The two Muncie seats, two in Indianapolis, two in Terre Haute, Stilwell-Lambert, GiaQuinta-Becker, Padfield-Herrell, and Kellerman-Duncan.

HPR: Where does Dick Bodiker stand at this point?

Parker: He is positioned very well for re-election.

HPR: Copenhaver?

Parker: Copenhaver is in a competitive race. I don't know where they get that they're in the lead in any of these races.

HPR: They say that you polled once about a month ago and then followed up with negative push questions.

Parker: That's not true. That's funny, because that's what they're doing. We are using polling that's legitimate 300 registered in each of these districts. They are calling mass num-

bers of people in each of these districts. They're calling mass numbers of people and using about six or seven questions on each and then they say, 'What can we do to change your mind?' We're asking people legitimate questions on incumbents' voting records and challengers' records as officeholders. And we're giving people the option to tell us whether they support us or don't or if it doesn't make any difference. We're not pushing anybody. They've always done the killer calls. They used in '94, '92 and they used in '90. It's just a typical Republican tactic. We're using our polling to determine what the messages are, how it will affect the voters.

HPR: Are you leading the 12 challenger races?

Parker: We're either leading or in a competitive stance in each of those races. I'm not predicting 58 seats next week. You could be ahead in July and August and November is a long way away. Ask me that again in the first week in October. I think a lot have to do with the gubernatorial race and what effect that has on a lot of these races.

HPR: What does your polling tell you about the Goldsmith-O'Bannon race?

Parker: Frank O'Bannon is in a real good position right now considering that Steve Goldsmith spent \$3 million on his primary. Goldsmith had higher name recognition but Frank is very competitive.

HPR: How do you perceive the Clinton-Dole race impact?

Parker: I don't believe Clinton-Dole will have a big effect on the state races. The 1994 races were very nationalized. I don't believe that will be the case this year. The only impact the presidential race will have is that turnout will be better, and that's good for us. What you saw in 1994 was not a shift. It was a major fall-off in Democratic voters coming to the polls. I believe President Clinton will get Democrats out to the polls because he is very popular with Democrats.

HPR: Was there a 10-15 percent reduction in Democratic voting in 1994?

Parker: Yes. You saw that in a lot of dis-

tricts we lost last year. It wasn't a matter of the Republicans gaining all these votes. A lot of our Democrats ran well ahead of the statewide ticket. Vern Tischer ran about 2,400 votes ahead of the Democratic statewide ticket. That doesn't show strength for David Lohr. That shows that the Democratic base just didn't show up. If they had, Tischer would have won. Same for Ben GiaQuinta, same for the two seats in Indianapolis and we know what the dynamic was in the old speaker's seat. In the other Terre Haute seat, there were 2,800 Democrats that didn't show up. That's 2,800 primary Democrats that voted in 1992 and didn't show up in '94.

HPR: What kind of information do you have that makes you confident they will show up this time?

Parker: The polling is showing that Democrats are more certain to vote. In 1994, if you looked at the numbers, Democrats were just likely to vote. We only poll likely voters, not just registered voters. In 1994, Democrats were more likely to vote and Republicans were certain to vote. This year you're seeing much higher numbers in the "Democrats certain to vote" category. That's encouraging for our races. If the Democratic base doesn't turn out again, then we'll go through the same disaster.

HPR: Do you get the feeling that the Democratic base has warmed up to President Clinton again?

Parker: Bill Clinton is a very polarizing person if you look at his numbers. He is extremely popular with Democrats and especially with minority Democrats. With independents, they are kind of right in the middle. If you had to put him on the scale of 1 to 10, he's a 5. With Republicans, they just hate him. Bill Clinton will not get us any Republican support. And independents, when you look at Clinton's numbers compared to Bob Dole, Dole doesn't excite anybody. Bob Dole's numbers with Republicans look pathetic. So Bill Clinton will help us with our Democratic base. It's our job to get those independents to break our way.

HPR: Do you see a lot of ticket splitting?

Parker: It's tough to say. I don't think the gubernatorial race has even started yet. So it will be interesting to see when we get back in the field how much ticket splitting there might be. That trend started in the 1980s and it will

continue. You saw it in 1992 when Gov. Bayh won with 63 percent and Dan Coats won with close to the same numbers. The Congressionals went our way, state senators went their way and state reps went our way. Voters are all over the map.

HPR: How is the caucus doing in fundraising?

Parker: We're doing extremely well.

HPR: Will you out-raise Republicans?

Parker: We're ahead of where we were in 1992. I don't even try to be close. We just have to be in a competitive nature. They're always going to have more money. Our objective was to have enough money to run the races we want to run. And I believe we will have enough to do that.

HPR: What kind of themes will Democrats be striking on a statewide basis?

Parker: You're going to hear themes related to extremism, extreme agendas, looking out for the average person, education, health care, that certain Republicans who were elected in 1994 were bad choices for the people of certain districts. There are a certain number of Republicans that people had no idea who they were when people cast a ballot for them. It will be our job to tell these people exactly who they are and what kind of agenda they've lead that the average mainstream Hoosier would not support.

HPR: The impact of prevailing wage?

Parker: It's an issue that mainly affects organized labor. It's very hard to explain to the average person. It's going to be an issue that will only resonate with working people and those affiliated with organized labor. I remember your article after the 1995 mayoral races that said that labor stayed home. I thought that was kind of unjust for labor because mayoral races don't have much effect on labor. Labor is doing a great job for us, energizing their members, getting them registered and getting them to the polls.

HPR: My point was simply that prevailing wage was theoretical in the legislative process and is actually executed on the municipal level. And that connect was not made.

Parker: That's true. But a lot of those folks see it as a state issue.

TICKER T A P E

the Evansville Courier that "Republicans have dug themselves a pretty deep hole" in the presidential race and didn't need a nasty convention fight over abortion. "People are going to differ on each of these issues and we need to make room for them," Goldsmith said. As for his speech to the convention on Thursday night, the mayor said, "For me, it's an opportunity to say government can be smaller, but that's not an end in itself. The goal is to shrink government's impact on people ... and unleash private enterprise."

WE'VE ALL HEARD ENOUGH NOW
We've all heard plenty of stories of desperate pols trying to get on a ballot. Now comes the story of Floyd County restaurateur George Keller who is trying to get off. Keller tried to withdraw from the May primary as a Republican commissioner candidate but missed the deadline. He won his race, defeating Marlin Farish 1,155 to 866. He announced he didn't want the office, then failed to withdraw in time for the Nov. 5 election. "I'm very upset about the situation," said Floyd County GOP Chairman Carl Pearcy. "I've never been in a position where someone actually won a primary and then withdrew" (Louisville Courier-Journal).

continued on page 6

TICKER T A P E

Gov. Evan Bayh has raised \$1.28 million for his expected 1998 Senate run, more than twice that of U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, who has \$499,000 cash on hand.

U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton defended his vote for the new welfare system. "I supported this bill because I concluded a long time ago that the current welfare system cries out for reform," Hamilton said. "Virtually no one defends it. It undermines the basic values of work, responsibility and family, traps generation after generation in dependency and hurts the very people that it was designed to help. In my view, the bill probably represents our best hope for figuring out how to solve the problems of the poor and underclass."

Tenth CD Republican Virginia Blankenbaker praised the welfare bill and chided her opponent, Democrat Julia Carson. "I'm surprised Julia Carson doesn't agree with a bill her president will sign into law," she said. "One would think someone who deals with poor relief every day would embrace these changes."

How did Virginia Blankenbaker's convention speech go on Monday? Pretty good, her campaign said, even though

continued on page 7

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - No matter how good a magazine, a radio station, a newspaper or television station is, there is always a portion of society that either doesn't like it or doesn't believe its news content. The Washington Post unmasked the identity of the author of "Primary Colors," the book about the 1992 presidential campaign by the least-known of authors, "Anonymous." The real author turned out to be one of the top political analysts in the country, Joe Klein, a person we may not have heard about before, but who nonetheless profited from his unwillingness to use his name on his book. One wonders how much credibility Joe Klein would have given to a letter to his magazine (*Newsweek*), or *60 Minutes* (produced by his other employer, CBS) if it had been signed and used with the signature "anonymous." The vast majority of all newspapers, including this one, reject letters for publication if the authors do not want their names used. Apparently Joe Klein thought he was an exception rivaled only by a person in a trial who could be hidden forever in the witness protection program.

Rod Spaw, *Evansville Press* - She's college educated, politically aware, sensitive, insightful and informed. She's always been a newspaper-a-day kind of person, and two on Sunday. She's not the type you'd expect to swear off current events. Yet this is what has happened. No more *Time* magazine. No more Tom Brokaw. Newspapers are allowed in the house only to check the movie listings. What we have here, ladies and gentlemen, is another news junkie who has crashed and burned on an overdose of crime, corruption, doom, despair, tragedy and the rampant cynicism of a world in moral freefall. Her analysis: "Everything in the news is bad anymore. I don't want to get on an airplane and wonder if it's going to blow up. I'm tired of worrying about my son being shot or sexually molested everytime he walks to the store. I'm just sick of it." A good news day? Sure was. Our "good" days often are other people's nightmares.

Maybe my wife has the right idea about this business, after all.

Harrison Ullmann, *Nuvo* - Thanks to everyone for their support of this year's All Breed Public Watch Dog Field Trials. After all the expenses were tallied, the show cleared an unaudited profit of \$23,892, which *Nuvo* donated to the Robert D. Gartor Home for the Ethically Incontinent in Columbus.

Dick Cady, *Indianapolis Star* - Ullmann said he was unaware (Carol) Schultz had been fired by the *News*, cooperated with the police by lying, and was enrolled as an informer. Under oath, she said *Nuvo* knew she was working with the police and didn't care about any breach of ethics. "They don't care about anything," she testified.

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - Bob Dole and the Republican Party couldn't be more compatible. They're both pedaling energetically toward the same goal: To guarantee that Dole won't have anything better to do on Inaugural Day 1997 than curl up on the sofa in his Watergate apartment with a cup of cocoa and an afghan around his shoulders, watching President Clinton be sworn in for a second term. Dole's tax-cut announcement last week couldn't have been scripted better by Clinton's re-election team. There is nothing a politician likes better than an opponent who flip-flops and sounds insincere while doing it.

Mary Dieter, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - Lawmakers from both parties who were key players when the legislature tackled welfare last year say they doubt there will be many changes in what they've devised. The positions of Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith aren't that far apart. "I think we'd just continue to build on that progress," (O'Bannon) said. Goldsmith, for his part, would follow the Wisconsin model if he were elected.

PERHAPS.

WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

A Bayh keynote speech will heighten his impact

CHICAGO - Actually, the announcement last weekend came with a Jackson Hole, Wyoming dateline:

"Indiana's popular two-term governor, Evan Bayh, will give the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention, party officials said Saturday."

The Wyoming story was significant because that's where President Clinton was this weekend. But by Monday afternoon, the office of Gov. Bayh was still on pins and needles. "I am not in a position to confirm or deny," Bayh spokesman Fred Nation mustered with as much seriousness as possible.

Who were those unnamed sources? "It may have been the bellboy," Nation surmised.

For his part, Bayh was vacationing in Bermuda with the wife and twins, knowing that one of the biggest days of his life could arrive on Aug. 28 - the day of the keynote address.

Convention keynote speeches are the kind of platform any young politician like Bayh covets. It would lift him into a Democratic strata that has few names: Bill Clinton, Al Gore and, perhaps, Bob Kerrey or Bill Bradley.

There have been many electrifying keynote speeches. U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan's speech was sensational in 1976. New York Gov. Mario Cuomo's 1984 address commenced eight years of speculation on whether he would run for president. Other keynotes are remembered for elements other than enlightenment. Texas Gov. Ann Richard's 1992 speech still epitomizes smug name calling when she insisted that George Bush was "born with a silver spoon in his mouth." And then there was Bill Clinton's 1988 dud that lasted too long and bored delegates and the media to tears. But like the scandals and other oddities swirling around the White House, the Clinton keynote did little to quell his ambition.

The last Hoosier to give a keynoter was U.S. Rep. Charlie Halleck, HPR believes at the 1952 Republican convention.

How would Evan Bayh approach this speech, should it come? For his past big addresses - mostly State of State speeches over the last eight years - Bayh circulates a memo to his staff that seeks the accomplishments and initiatives of his administration. This usually occurs just before the Christmas holidays for a speech that is usually delivered in mid January. In some of his early State of the State addresses, it was speech by committee or one writer would try to take a whack at it.

But as his administration progressed, Bayh has written the speech himself, long-hand. Bayh will also dictate the speech so that it can be transcribed. He then updates the speech between its first draft and, sometimes, up until the final minutes.

The difference with a national keynote speech is that the Clinton re-election campaign will weigh in on content. It will be a shorter speech - 20 to 30 minutes - than his normal State of the State addresses.

Bayh can be expected to play heavily on the future of the nation, from his new perspective as a family man and as a man who has presided over Indiana for the past eight years.

Bayh will also find the dynamic different than the golden opportunities that greeted Jordan, Cuomo and Clinton. When they gave their speeches, they were there to establish and articulate reasons for the Democrats return to presidential power. Evan Bayh would be called upon to highlight his own fiscal conservatism (once again in vogue at the White House) while underscoring Clintonian themes for the next four years.

The opportunity for Bayh will be to highlight the notions of the second wave of the Baby Boomers seeking power. It will make him a national figure as he prepares for federal office in 1998 and, potentially, for the next political generation.

TICKER T A P E

the TelePrompter failed. "She winged it," said campaign manager Jim Knoop. She took the opportunity to take on opponent Julia Carson's call for scholarships for prisoners. After the speech, Blanken-baker spent several hours making fundraising calls from San Diego.

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar has launched a new website: <http://www.iquest.net/lugar/>

Vigo County Democrats have opened up a coordinated campaign headquarters in Terre Haute, housing campaigns for 7th CD, six legislative races and county races. It is located at 6th and Wabash streets. A similar setup is in place in Tippecanoe County, where four legislative races will link up with Hellman's organization.

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats told the Washington Times that the GOP "erred" when it allowed the "libertarian wing of the party" dominate the legislative agenda. "The libertarian view beyond the flat tax was the dominant theme of the first half of this Congress, particularly in the House. House members are struggling with it now. It didn't accomplish its purpose."

Fifth CD Democrat candidate Doug Clark noted U.S. Rep.

continued on page 8

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 1996

TICKER

T A P E

Steve Buyer's \$120,000 fundraising advantage and told Maureen Grope of Thomson News Service, "I'm sure Buyer's campaign is probably laughing at how much money I have and people in Washington, DC have probably written me off as a serious candidate. But they can't see the time that I put in." Clark has also challenged Buyer to a debate, giving him an Aug. 23 deadline. "We were at the Bass Lake parade and I asked him about it," Clark said. "He said he had to take care of the country's business first."

Attorney General Pam Carter has announced the formation of the Indiana Democratic Party's Women's Coalition

Indiana Young Democrats have elected news officers: Steve Campbell, president; Amy Cunningham, vice president; Kostas Poulakidas, second veep; Tim Jeffers, treasurer; and Anne Para, secretary.

The Hoosier Sierra Club has voted against endorsing 8th CD Democrat Jonathon Weinzapfel, citing the Democrat's support for the I-69 extension to Evansville as its reason. "It's a divisive issue," said Bill Hayden, Sierra's political director. "It splits us."

State Rep. Rick McConnell had surgery for brain cancer last week radiation treatment.

Gubernatorial, from page 1

campaign has begun in August. We tried to get a little jump on (Goldsmith), but it really had nothing to do with him being at the convention."

Rachel Gorland, O'Bannon's press aide, was more emphatic about the TV buy. "We realize, when we looked at the Mason-Dixon poll and what is else is out there, there's an opportunity to define the race and we're going to take it."

Anne Shane of the Goldsmith campaign told HPR that they had "no plans" to start its ad campaign. "We feel we're getting a lot of tremendous local and national media coverage."

The most recent Mason-Dixon poll had Goldsmith leading O'Bannon by 5 points, and a *Star/News-WTHR-TV* poll conducted by the Indiana University Public Opinion laboratory had Goldsmith leading by 8 points.

During the post-state convention sequence, the O'Bannon campaign spent much of its public time trying to gather the news media's attention on the Goldsmith administration: Golfgate, audits of city budgets, the amount of money that has gone into long-term debt, and accounting for what Goldsmith has called \$240 million in savings. Much of this political water was carried by Indianapolis City-County Council members.

In seizing what they believe is an opportunity, the O'Bannon campaign sought to augment it with a time-tested idea: the billion dollar tax cut. It is comprised of a property tax cut aimed at the middle class homeowners and renters, a tighter cap on local tax increases, and a tax credit for low income earners.

Asked how he would pay for the cut, O'Bannon explained that \$293 million would come from cuts in government spending, \$53 million from the surplus and \$237 million from tightening the property tax cap.

It was O'Bannon's response to Goldsmith's call for a property tax freeze last spring.

While the campaign denies this flurry of activity was designed to steal some of Goldsmith's GOP convention thunder, no one is denying that might be the effect. The result was good press and TV coverage in all in-state markets on Wednesday.

Goldsmith is expected to push his competitive government and free market agenda at the convention. The campaign will likely confront the Bayh-O'Bannon welfare claims by pointing out that Indiana has led the nation in food stamp errors.

Battle for the House

The intriguing backdrop to the gubernatorial race is the battle for the Indiana House.

Democrat House strategist Dan Parker (see HPR Interview, pages 4-5) plans to direct attacks toward Republicans in 12 challenger races by claiming "extremism."

"That's kind of funny," said David Bottorff, field director for the House Republican Caucus. "When we wanted to limit welfare to two years several years ago that was called extreme. But now Bill Clinton signs it at the federal level. For them to call us extreme on the stance of welfare is hypocritical."

Democrats are expected to try and exploit the "Hatch Letter" and militia ties to House GOP freshmen after Labor Day. The Hatch letter was written to U.S. Sen. Orin Hatch and signed by a number of GOP freshmen in 1995. But Bottorff doesn't believe those attacks will stick.

"After the Hatch letter, the Senate held meetings, it was revealed the FBI made mistakes and people were fired and demoted on Waco," Bottorff said. "With Ruby Ridge, the government settled out of court for millions of dollars with Randy Weaver."

Bottorff noted that the campaign of Fort Wayne Democrat Ben Giacinta will plan to tie State Rep. John Becker to militias. "John told me that the only militia he was ever involved with was the U.S. armed forces. I don't think those charges will sell well."

Convention bumps

The backdrop to this late summer position for definition will be the national conventions. Goldsmith and Dole can be expected to get a bump after Thursday night.

Democrats hope that Gov. Bayh will give the keynote address with residual benefits for O'Bannon, and that a likely Clinton bump will even GOP gains out.