

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I kind of like the Hoosier Dome...”

—State Sen. Bob Garton, when asked by a reporter which of the 38 taxes Mayor Goldsmith criticized LG Frank O’Bannon for did he find acceptable

Debates don’t help Hoosier Republicans

Neither Dole, Goldsmith could deliver knock-out

GREENCASTLE - Within a 24-hour period between Sunday and Monday nights, Indiana Republicans had to be hoping that presidential nominee Bob Dole and gubernatorial candidate Stephen Goldsmith could deliver knock-out punches to propel their troubled campaigns into the lead.

In both cases, it didn’t happen.

Not that either man didn’t perform well. To the contrary, Dole came across as a nice guy connected to the Internet. What he needed to be, however, was not a hatchet man but one with a velvet hammer. He let President Clinton slip off the hook on the character issue, particularly when it came to potential Whitewater pardons for Jim and Susan McDougal. Dole even posed the “no comment” line as an alternative for Clinton, who gulped and took it.

Evaporating with Dole’s lost opportunities was a chance to complete the 1994 Republican revolution by recapturing the White House. More importantly for Indiana Republicans, Dole’s nice guy showing will do little to bolster gubernatorial, congressional and legislative campaigns that need for Dole to carry the state by more than 200,000 votes. In fact, there is increasing evidence - as we saw in last week’s Mason-Dixon Poll - that Clinton could actually carry Indiana.

The stakes in the DePauw University debate between Goldsmith and LG Frank O’Bannon weren’t as high, given the Democrat’s 44-41 percent Mason-Dixon Poll lead falls within the statistical margin of error. But Goldsmith could have used a sound, knockout punch on O’Bannon to garner the kind of TV and newspaper coverage needed to launch him back into the lead he lost in August.

It simply didn’t happen. In fact, the emerging TV commentary in Indianapolis was that O’Bannon had “exceeded expectations.” And Tuesday headlines across the state - “Ad talk raises hackles at debate” in the *Bloomington Herald-Times*; “O’Bannon-Goldsmith clash over

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Indiana’s fastest growing source of political news



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PLAY OF THE WEEK: The student telecommunication staff at DePauw University for their handling of the Goldsmith-O'Bannon debate. But seasoned PBS pro Ken Bode didn't fare so well. Both candidates were supposed to have four-minute opening statements, but Bode cut O'Bannon off after two minutes. He forgot several question sequences, and then ended up with four extra minutes at the end of the debate. The best part of this debate was that Goldsmith and O'Bannon were able to ask each other questions.



Indiana is one of 17 states in which President Clinton and challenger Bob Dole have yet

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Both candidates missed property tax opportunities

ads" in the *Louisville Courier-Journal*; and "Ads become debate focus" in the *Indianapolis News* - accented the one bleeder issue for the Republican.

Instead of centering on the most unique vision Goldsmith needs to articulate in order to win the election - school choice, welfare off the property tax roles, the property tax freeze, local control, reining in regulation - the coverage centered on the negative ad issue that has hurt the Goldsmith campaign.

Neither candidate seized a potential advantage on the property tax issue. During the summer, Goldsmith proposed a property tax freeze that he said addressed the skyrocketing tax rates schools impose on communities with little accountability. O'Bannon characterized that freeze as a potential devastating blow to poorer communities.

When O'Bannon announced his \$1 billion property tax cut, Goldsmith accused him of ignoring the large increases school districts have imposed and of being in the pocket of the ISTA.

In both the presidential and gubernatorial debates, the tone was civil, which got high marks from both national and state pundits, but didn't really move the numbers. In the Hoosier

debate, O'Bannon made a conspicuous effort to look into the camera and make his points. Goldsmith's delivery was slower and more measured, an attempt to try and blunt the reputation for ultra-ambition that has followed him throughout his career.

O'Bannon may have "exceeded expectations" but only the press see him as a less-than-effective communicator, and not the general public.

Two more debates have been scheduled: one in Crown Point on Oct. 15 that will not be televised, and the *Indianapolis Star-News/WTHR* debate on Friday, Oct. 18, at Butler University, which will be seen by a small, central Indiana television audience since most Hoosiers will be involved with things like football games and other social events.

In essence, the debates are likely to make their biggest impression through ensuing print coverage and to supply tape of the candidates as both campaigns see fit.

That means the campaign for governor will likely be won via the way this campaign has been waged to date, with about \$6 million in combined advertising between now and Nov. 5.



**Look for a Bayh-Quayle
showdown to mark the
gubernatorial proxy war**

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: Watch for the Goldsmith-O'Bannon race to soon enter the "proxy war" phase. In this corner for Frank O'Bannon, Gov. Evan Bayh! And in this corner, former Vice President Dan Quayle! And remember, Hoosier folks, these guys have about \$6 million left for TV.

PRESIDENT

| | | |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Bill Clinton, D Bob Dole, Rep Ralph Nader, I Ross Perot, Ref Harry Browne, L | Likely D | Kinder and gentler Bob Dole fails to take character bait during first debate. He's a goner. Post-debate polls: LA Times, Clinton 54, Dole 41 (prior to debate it was 51-40); Newsweek had it 55-38 percent (53-32 prior); ABC News poll had 50-29 Clinton edge over who won the debate. |
|--|-----------------|---|

GOVERNOR

| | | |
|--|---------------|---|
| Stephen Goldsmith, R Frank O'Bannon, D Steve Dillon, L | Tossup | Kinder and gentler Steve Goldsmith meets up with fiery O'Bannon, who beat expectations. Goldsmith could have used a technical knockout to regain the lead. May need to do so in Oct. 18 debate at Butler. Many lost opportunities for both, particularly over impact of property tax reforms. Don't think this debate had impact. |
|--|---------------|---|

79TH INDIANA HOUSE

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Mike Ripley, R Barb Engle, D | TOSSUP | This is going to be a pure barn-burner. Engle was virtually the only Republican to switch to Democrats, nationally. Ripley is a proven Adams County vote-getter. Both side biting nails. |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|

2ND CD

| | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| David McIntosh, R Marc Carmichael, D | SAFE R | Horse Race doing some house cleaning that Ruthie didn't have time for. Your hubby's safe. |
|---|---------------|---|

7TH CD

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Ed Pease, R Bob Hellmann, D | LIKELY R | First polling data released in this race is by Wirthlin Worldwide (Sept. 16-17, 400 likely, +/- 4.9 percent) shows Pease leading 58-30 percent. But this came before the house leasing story became a big issue. |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|

8TH CD

| | | |
|--|---------------|---|
| John Hostettler, R Jonathon Weinzapfel, D | Tossup | Nas-taaay debates. Hostettler mentions Jason Simpson's DUI and Weinzapfel's lack of kids. Weinzapfel calls it a smear campaign. |
|--|---------------|---|

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**

to make a campaign appearance since Sept. 1, according to a study by the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.

Former Sen. Birch Bayh and former Indianapolis Mayor Bill Hudnut will be on hand to roast U.S. Rep. Andy Jacobs at noon Oct. 23 at the Indianapolis Athletic Club. Other roasters include Sheila Kennedy of the ICLU, AG Pam Carter, former Sen. Louis Mahern and Jim "Beer Baron" Shella of WISH-TV. Tickets are \$65 and can be reserved by calling the Sycamore Institute at 582-4788.

Dollyne Pettingill, former press aide to Gov. Bob Orr and Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, is handling some of the press duties for the Goldsmith gubernatorial campaign.

State Rep. Mike "Limos-for-Diapers" Young is back on board with the House Republican caucus to help in several legislative races.

HPR reported last week that U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton was refusing to debate 9th CD challenger Jean Leising. Not true, said Floyd County Democratic Chairman Warren Nash. The New Albany Chamber of Commerce is putting together a debate between the two set

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Sen. Coats ponders opportunities lost with Dole, GOP revolution



"It sends a very bad signal for the future of America if that's what it takes today to be successful in politics: a pretty face, a slick ad and avoiding a discussion of the real issues..."

- Sen. Dan Coats



INDIANAPOLIS - As if 1996 wasn't hot enough, U.S. Sen. Dan Coats confirmed at an Indianapolis Press Club roundtable session with reporters that he will be running for re-election, most probably against Gov. Evan Bayh.

But most importantly, Coats offered key insights into the presidential and congressional elections that will be determined in the next month.

Mary Beth Schneider: If Clinton wins, who starts off as the Republican heir apparent for 2000?

Coats: Jack Kemp, clearly. His campaign for vice president has left him with high marks and a lot of support wherever he goes. The energy and enthusiasm and ability to claim lead status in terms of seeking the nomination. He'll clearly have the first shot.

Mary Dieter: Supply side will not be discredited by Dole's loss?

Coats: No, this election will not be a referendum on supply side. I think ultimately it's going to come down to a couple of major issues. Number one, who best articulates a positive vision for the next four years, and secondly, who people feel they can best trust with the inevitable conflicts both domestically and internationally. And I really believe an issue of character will be part of the final equation.

Dieter: There has been a lot of imagery since the convention when Dole talked about a bridge to the past and Clinton talked about a bridge to the future. Is that part of Dole's problem?

Coats: I think he answered a lot of those questions Sunday evening. He didn't come across as old and dour. He clearly had a better sense of humor than Bill Clinton did. People saw for the first time on a national basis the Bob Dole those of us who have had the privilege of working with him directly on a day-to-day basis see. He's a decent human being. Someone with a sense of humor but someone who can be tough. Someone you can put a lot of trust in. I think that's the first step in a series of steps that Bob Dole will be able to take to secure the presidency.

Dieter: During the debate he kept mentioning 1965. It makes me think he's old and that he's been in Washington that long. Why does he do that?

Coats: The bridge to the past can be successful if you translate it to the positive accomplishments and values of the past being necessary for building the bridge to the future. Bob Dole clearly needs to say more than 'bridge to the past' and 1965. He needs to articulate what it was about the past that people were not afraid to walk out the door at night, to walk in their neighborhood and chat with their neighbor; where people sent their children out the front door to school in the morning and felt they were safe from drugs, safe from predators, and felt they were going to get as good an education as they were going to get anywhere. He needs to translate that the bridge to the future is a return to those values.

Dieter: Isn't it kind of late to be making that bridge?

Coats: Well, no. In the world of politics, four weeks is everything. I'm optimistic because I've seen so many elections turn in the last 10 days.

Howey: Why is Dole having such a problem striking the issues? Is there internal conflict in the campaign?

Coats: It's taken time for this campaign to really get its legs. A lot was due to the fact that so much of the effort and all of the money went into securing the nomination in a very difficult primary process. With the selection of Jack Kemp, with the debate Sunday night, the campaign is going to be much more focused and much more cohesive. I do believe four weeks is enough time.

Howey: Are there personality conflicts?

Coats: There were differences of opinion on how the campaign was to be conducted. Bob Dole clearly said win, lose or draw, I'm going to conduct a campaign that best reflects who I am. That means that it's going to avoid the harsh, negative attacks. It's going to avoid taking character shots at the president every day. It will be directed toward a more visionary campaign.

Howey: But Sunday night Dole passed up two golden opportunities to strike a difference with the president on the character issue and the Whitewater pardons.

Coats: You may look at that and think maybe he did. But in the long run, he gains from that. What you need to understand is that Bob Dole is fighting the reputation that he has been a negative, dour, sour hatchet man and that given the opening, he goes for the jugular. That is not the Bob Dole I know. I think he was very, very concerned about the fact that if he took those two opportunities - which were open doors - the headlines the next day would say, "The old Dole is back." He needed to demonstrate to the American people who he really is.

Howey: When you're 18 points down in the polls, it's like Leo Durocher saying, "Nice guys finish last." It seems to me he needs to strike a balance between the hatchet man and the man with a velvet hammer.

Coats: When you've been characterized as the hatchet man, to point to anything to say, 'There he is. Just what we thought.' He has to bend over backwards to go the other way.

Leslie Stedman: In four weeks, what can you do to change a perception that existed for decades?

Coats: Well, you start where you can. I think the debate was that start.

Schneider: How shocked are you that Clinton could be re-elected and the Democrats could retake the House and Senate just two years after the Republicans thought they had changed the course of history?

Coats: Pretty shocked. That would be a revolutionary ... that's the wrong word. I never would have anticipated that two years ago. It does show the revolutionary change of tack by the president that is extraordinary in terms of its political adeptness. But I would contend that as slick as that move has been, it does nothing to answer the fundamental question as to who is the best person and which is the best party to lead in the next four years. Which Bill Clinton is going to show up in the White House in January? The Bill Clinton who didn't face the re-election process, whose first two years brought us an extremely liberal agenda and activist government, or the Bill Clinton faced with the lowest approval ratings of any president this century suddenly changed course 180 degrees and

attempted to out-Republican the Republicans. The Dole campaign needs to raise the question, who do you really trust? That's a big job in four weeks to a public that is yet to be fully focused.

WIBC: If the Democrats win, will the Republican Party have to do some soul searching over why they lost? The public seems to have a negative connotation of the Republicans.

Coats: I've given that a lot of thought. There would be a great deal of discouragement. The conclusion that might be arrived at - and one I hope won't be arrived at - is you've got to be mush in order to be elected. You can never raise a cutting edge issue. You can never talk about the real issues that need to be addressed. Entitlement issues that need to be discussed are going to put this country in serious economic stress in the future and they have to be addressed. If the only way you can get elected in this country is to avoid the real questions and just tell people what they want to hear, then America is going to be much poorer off. Here is the first time in memory that people said, "If you elect us to office, here is what we'll do." And the people ratified that. And then they preceded to do that. And people allowed it to be characterized as something that wasn't anticipated. It sends a very bad signal for the future of America if that's what it takes today to be successful in politics: a pretty face, and a slick ad and avoiding a discussion of the real issues.

Howey: I saw a quote attributed to you saying you felt the libertarian wing of the Republican Party went too far.

Coats: In response to a question asked of me by the editorial board of the *Washington Times*, to the effect that "Was there a libertarian streak in what the House did?" I said, some of what they did there was a libertarian streak.

Howey: When I saw that quote, I thought you might have been talking about a former aide of yours, Rep. Mark Souder, as well as David McIntosh and John Hostettler, who pushed the government shutdown.

Coats: None of those three you mentioned fall in that category. The libertarian wing essentially says there is literally no role for government in enforcing any kind of health or safety measures.

Howey: Was the government shutdown the pivotal point for the GOP downward spiral?

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for Sunday Oct. 20.

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats identified vice presidential nominee Jack Kemp as the presumed 2000 GOP presidential front-runner, but said that if former Vice President Dan Quayle runs, "He would have my support."

Hubbard Watch: We've been keeping HPR readers posted on former Republican state chairman Al Hubbard's weekly faxes on behalf of the Goldsmith campaign. His dispatch on Oct. 3 began like this: "You may have noticed that Frank O'Bannon is on television with another ad boasting about his property tax plan. After attempting to explain this complicated plan in a previous fax, many friends, including my wife, informed me that my explanation was difficult to understand. Let me try one more time." (Memo to Al from HPR - we understood the first one.)

"Clinton Cola" has been showing up on supermarket shelves in Evansville. Wrote Alan Julian of the *Evansville Courier*, "It's not the same as Billy Beer, but a new product called Clinton Cola is raising some eyebrows in the White House."

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler made these comments after this historic session of Congress

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adjourned. "The fact is that if the freshman class was not present in 1995 there would be no welfare reform or Tele-com reform or many of the other reforms that have been passed. We got things done." But his opponent, Democrat Jonathon Weinzapfel, saw the Congress in this light, saying that Hostettler's willingness to shut down the government last December was akin to holding the government "hostage to his own personal political agenda."

The Evansville Press editorialized on the out-going Congress this way: "Gingrich and the House GOP firebrands overreached at times, particularly in forcing two government shutdowns. Nor did the combative Newt help the conservative cause with his periodic petulance and rhetorical overkill. On balance, however, the 104th Congress deserves credit for taking on the old order and causing many people inside the Beltway, most notably Bill Clinton, to question basic assumptions about the role of the federal government."

The "tweak of the week" comes from the campaign of 10th CD candidate Julia Carson, who dug up a Jan. 15, 1992, resolution published in the Journal of the Senate con-

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Rod Spaw, *Evansville Press* - I have jotted down a few characteristics which I think are important in candidates for public office. I like candidates who enjoy a good argument. I like candidates who do their own grocery shopping. I like candidates who look comfortable in overalls. I like candidates who aren't afraid to get drunk every once in a while. I like candidates who are honest enough to feel guilty about the company a politician keeps. I like candidates who have had more life-affirming experiences than they would want their opponents to discover. I like candidates who can give you 10 practical uses for duct tape. I like candidates who know all the words to "Louie, Louie." I like candidates who don't have a simple answer to every complex question. I like candidates who enjoy goofing off but rarely get the opportunity. I like candidates who walk barefoot around the house. I like candidates who have written checks without knowing whether or not there was money in the bank to cover it.

Mary Dieter, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - Steve Goldsmith was clever when he proposed ending negative ads in the governor's race. And Frank O'Bannon would have to be crazy to agree. It's true - the ads have been brutal and misleading. The men depicted in them are virtually unrecognizable, so far removed from the reality they are. And it's hard to believe that either candidate would have the stomach to authorize what's being said in his name. So Goldsmith, who started all the viciousness, probably scored some points with ad-weary voters when he proposed ending it. Last week he called for the candidates to make their own ads, although he later allowed that it would be OK if Gov. Evan Bayh and O'Bannon's wife, Judy, endorsed the lieutenant governor. Goldsmith knows that, if O'Bannon accepted, the proposal would effectively end discussion of Goldsmith's record, except for his own positive spin.

Brian Howey, *HPR* - At this writing, there didn't appear to be any compromise on this situation. O'Bannon campaign manager Tom New

explained, "If he wants to pull his attack ad, we'll pull our response ad." But no dice on the full proposal. This situation reminds me of a conversation the great biographer and poet Carl Sandburg recounted between President Abraham Lincoln and Indiana Rep. Daniel Vorhees - the "Tall Sycamore of the Wabash" from Terre Haute - during the Civil War. Always follow the people, Lincoln told Vorhees thoughtfully. It is the people who know best. Now you, the people, can enter in to how the campaign for governor will be conducted in two ways. Passively, you mutter about these inane, tattle-tale type ads under your breath, gripe about them to your friends and relatives, or use your remote control to switch channels when they come on. Or you can be aggressive about it and call the O'Bannon campaign at 317-231-7113 and the Goldsmith campaign at 800-968-8083 and express your thoughts and concerns verbally. Remember, however, to set a good example and be nice.

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - Is Suellen Reed in league with the devil? Well, of course, if you consider Uncle Sam to be the devil. "It kind of hurts when you're accused of being in league with the devil," Reed says. Accused she is, however, mainly because Suellen Reed has encouraged and defended Indiana participation in a federal program called Goals 2000. She has another problem, too, in the view of some Republican politicians: Reed, a Republican, has, on education matters, been in league not only with the devil but with the devil's disciple, Gov. Evan Bayh. Reed speaks heresy: "I said I would do what is right for kids." But what's right for kids isn't always right politically. There's political gain among an important segment of voters in deploring Goals 2000. At a news conference in South Bend with Goldsmith last week, she stuck with her defense of the program. Let it be clear that Goldsmith, though expressing a basic objection "to the role of the federal government in education," has used no in-league-with-the-devil rhetoric. He said in fact that he didn't disagree with Reed's desire to seek funding that could help schools.

PERHAPS.. WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Goldsmith's brilliant policy lacks Lugar's election savvy

INDIANAPOLIS - When Al Hubbard was chairman of the Indiana Republican Party, he lived by two mantras: raise a lot of money, and do everything possible to prevent tax increases.

The first position became evident in Hubbard's first month in office, when he strolled over to the Indiana Senate and exhorted Republicans there to oppose hospital and cigarette tax increases proposed by Gov. Evan Bayh. And by fall of 1994 - as the GOP was poised to retake the Indiana House and three congressional seats - the party was raising huge amounts of money.

So when Mayor Stephen Goldsmith began airing his controversial attack ad in the expensive Chicago media market against LG Frank O'Bannon accusing him of voting at least 38 times for tax increases, the strategy had Hubbard's foot prints all over it.

In fact, Hubbard plays a significant role in the Goldsmith campaign - much beyond his weekly fax letters to the media and other Hoosier movers and shakers. Hubbard, Mike Wells of the Indianapolis Airport Authority, campaign manager Anne Shane, former city transportation director and current hospital executive Mitch Roob, businessman Joe Loftus and media aide John Hatfield make up the inner circle and decision-making wing of the Goldsmith campaign.

A number of those people - excluding Hubbard - would likely join a Goldsmith administration at the Statehouse should he win on Nov. 5.

Numerous sources both inside and outside the campaign tell HPR that Shane and Wells play intricate roles in how the campaign functions.

"There isn't a decision made that doesn't involve Anne Shane," HPR was told. Shane works on the day-to-day campaign apparatus and strategy. Wells is involved in the broader strategy decisions.

As to who has Goldsmith's ear, Hubbard, Roob and media consultant Greg Stevens play important roles.

Sources describe the mayor as being "very much involved" in strategy decisions and which TV ads run. That fits pre-existing perceptions that Goldsmith tends to be a micro-manager with a penchant for weighing in on decisions significantly down the ladder from his executive perch.

As mayor, Goldsmith has established a system where voluminous amounts of information are passed up to him. "There is constant communication," one source observed. "Not only does he have all the information, he always has a number of recommendations on which he can act. He's very hands-on."

Another observer outside the administration marvels at Goldsmith's "binary mind" that hums with an incredible amount of statistical data that has afforded him the reputation as being a brilliant molder of public policy.

Goldsmith's problem is that doesn't always dovetail well into the messy world of partisan politics. That attitude was exhibited by Mitch Roob as he waited to appear on the *Mike Pence Show* at the WNDY-TV studios last winter. HPR observed to Roob that the campaign of primary challenger Rex Early appeared to be enjoying competitive politics.

"We're not in this for political fun," Roob said with the utmost seriousness. "We're in this for public policy."

The fact that virtually every political survey this month shows O'Bannon leading Goldsmith by three or four points illustrates the partisan disconnect from the public policy wing. Goldsmith's campaign team is not used to running in tight, statewide races. They were always involved in blow-outs for mayor and prosecutor in the Marion County Unigov sanctuary created by Dick Lugar to ensure Republican rule. Missing this year are a show of yard signs and get-out-the-vote efforts that mark a great political organization. Missing, also, is a match of Lugar-style public policy brilliance with precinct-level election savvy.

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gratulating her for winning the Indianapolis Star's Woman of the Year award in 1991. It was co-sponsored by Virginia Blankenbaker.

Republican AG candidate Steve Carter is blaming Democratic opponent Jeff Modisett for the release of convicted murderer Sharon Evans, who served only part of a 30-year sentence for murdering her husband in 1982, while he served as Marion County prosecutor. "This case is outrageous," said Carter. "How could Modisett's office have agreed to set this killer free? He owes every citizen in Indiana an explanation." Last week, Judge Webster Brewer decided to allow Evans to remain free even though her sentence reduction is illegal.

Roll Call reports that Virginia Thomas, wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, has prepared "an assault book on the Clinton administration that is being completed by the House GOP leadership in time for GOP Members to use for the fall elections." It comes at time when Democrats are accusing the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee of being in a state of destruction of its non-partisan nature. An example of that, Roll Call cited, was Indiana U.S. Rep. Dan Burton accusing Pennsylvania Democrat Rep. Paul Kanjorski of

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sexually harassing two female Republican staffers. In a letter from Burton to Kanjorski, the Hoosier Republican wrote, "You even put a hand on another female staffer." Kanjorski denounced the Burton allegations as "preposterous and libelous" smears.

HPR Publisher Brian Howey addresses the Economics Club of Michiana at the Knollwood Country Club in South Bend at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 16. Following Howey's speech, the gathering will watch the second Dole-Clinton debate. For ticket information, contact Robert Giel at Coopers & Lybrand, 219-294-7441. Howey will also appear on WNDY-TV's Mike Pence Show at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12.

How did the Louisville Courier-Journal play the Goldsmith, Mannweiler, Garton confab on Wednesday? Mary Dieter's lead went like this: "Their positions on some prominent issues in the race for governor are so divergent, they could be called the odd couple." The story was accompanied with a photo showing Garton wiping his brow.



Goldsmith, legislators preview 1997 agenda

INDIANAPOLIS - How precarious is the Indiana Republican majority in the House teetering in what looks to be a Democratic year in the making?

Consider that the Indiana Manufacturer's Association will endorse State Rep. John Gregg, the man who would become speaker.

Consider that on Tuesday, Republican legislative leaders joined Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, LG candidate George Witwer, Speaker Paul Mannweiler and Senate President Pro-Tem Bob Garton in a united front calling for lower taxes and education initiatives at press conferences in Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Fort Wayne and South Bend. "Republicans are committed to a united vision of Indiana's future," Garton declared at the Statehouse.

But the Statehouse press corps quickly pounced on Goldsmith's TV ad criticizing LG Frank O'Bannon for 38 tax increases, including enabling legislation. Which of the 38 tax hikes would Garton repudiate, he was asked.

"That's a decent question," Garton began. "There's no question this campaign has established a firm, anti-tax climate. A clear line has

been drawn in the sand."

Garton was asked if he regretted voting for two historic tax increases in 1982 and 1987 - hikes that O'Bannon voted against.

"That's a good question," Garton said softly. "We saved education in '82 and advanced education with the A-Plus program in 1987. No, I don't regret those."

Of the 38 tax hikes, did Garton still support any of them? "I kind of like the Hoosier Dome. I like hotdogs, too," he said.

Mannweiler obviously didn't like the way this wind was blowing. "One tax you never talk about is the one Frank O'Bannon kept the machine open on," the speaker said of a 1993 attempt to impose a higher cigarette tax.

"None of you want to talk about that one and then we end up with a billion budget surplus two years later," Mannweiler said, admonishing the reporters.

In a press conference to unveil proposals on six major areas on education, welfare, roads, regulatory reform and crime, the Republicans ended it all in 15 minutes - just enough time to tell which way the wind was blowing.

Coats Interview, from page 5

Coats: That wasn't one of our better stretches. But that clearly could have been handled better. There were some things that happened in that time frame that clearly allowed the opposition to label the party as a group of extremists, which I don't believe was true. It opened the door for them to say that and, unfortunately, we did not counter that successfully.

Howey: You tried to counter with your American Project Renewal that would put a more human face on conservatism. We're still not seeing that as part of the Republican election theme. Will we?

Coats: I'm still hopeful we will. If I could have given Bob Dole one piece of advice - and I hope this doesn't come out wrong here - when the question arose, 'Are we better off now than we were four years ago?' I would have hoped and will hope in the future that the response is just not limited to discussion of economics of

America and the employment rates, because in many ways people are better off. But there is a second part of that equation. Many families feel that in certain respects we're not better off, we're worse off, in the amount of juvenile crime, drug usage among juveniles, in terms of the amount of education our children are getting, in terms of neighborhood safety, in terms of some of the societal problems we have to deal with, we are not better off. At that point we need to offer a positive vision for those problems that exist in America. Our party has not successfully addressed those. That is the unspoken, unaddressed portion of this campaign. I hope we will become part of that debate.

Howey: Any communication between your staff and the Dole campaign on that?

Coats: We've had constant communication back and forth and the debate on Sunday, neither candidate addressed that portion of the agenda, to my disappointment.