



Romney calls for business leadership

'What American needs is jobs'

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Mitt Romney and the Republican Party sought to humanize the Republican nominee Thursday night. From the nominee himself, to friends, neighbors and Mormons, American voters were presented with a personal tapestry of a grandson of a self-made immigrant, son of an automaker, a father and husband, a penny-pinching businessman and a dedicated friend helping families in crisis.

It was a critical filling in the blanks for a nominee who is taking on President Obama and a dire economy. Poll after poll shows support for Romney on key issues, with the economy weighing supremely on the mind of voters, though Americans still maintained a personal faith in the incumbent.

"This president cannot say we are better off than we were four years ago," Romney said at one point, drawing on a phrase used by Ronald Reagan in 1980. "This Obama economy has crushed the middle class. Look



around you, these are our brothers and sisters."

Romney told a rapt and concerned nation, "I wish President Obama had succeeded because I want America to succeed. But his promises gave way to disappointment and division. This isn't something we have to accept. Now is the moment when we CAN do something. With your help we will do something. Now is the moment when we can stand up and say, "I'm an American. I make my destiny.

Continued on page 3

Pence/Gregg 'clear choice'

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. - We are witnessing perhaps the most vivid contrast between gubernatorial candidates Mike Pence and John Gregg coming with the politically explosive issue of Obamacare.



Knowing that he would not have to live with decisions made by November deadlines on establishing Essential Health Benefits and the Health Exchange the law calls for, Gov. Mitch Daniels asked for input from the candidates, saying he will follow the advice of the winner on Nov. 6.

The backdrop to this is that



"Mom and Dad were married 64 years. And if you wondered what their secret was you could have asked the local florist - because every day Dad gave Mom a rose. That's how she found out what happened on the day my father died. "

- Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney



Howey Politics Indiana

is a non-partisan newsletter based in Indianapolis. It was founded in 1994 in Fort Wayne.

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Subscriptions

\$350 annually HPI Weekly
\$550 annually HPI Weekly and
HPI Daily Wire.

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Obamacare is extremely unpopular in Indiana. A December 2011 Public Opinion Strategies Poll revealed that 57% oppose the law and only 35% support it. On a repeal question, 55% support and 35% are against.

Democrat Gregg acknowledged that dynamic when he said, "I want to make this clear, it does not matter whether you support the Affordable Care Act or not, whether you love it or hate it, it is the law of the land. My job as governor will be to protect the best interests of the people of this state and enforce the law in a way that will benefit all Hoosiers and make healthcare more affordable and more accessible for all Hoosiers."

He then laid out a position diametrically opposed to Republican nominee Pence. In doing so, we find the Democrat taking a pragmatic approach to the law, while Pence has adopted an ideological stance that will likely be more politically popular.

After meeting with Gov. Daniels, Pence explained, "First, the national debate over the Affordable Care Act is far from over."

Pence is a vociferous opponent of Obamacare, voting against it in March 2010 and on 33 other House votes to repeal. "While the Obama administration, its allies in Congress and the Supreme Court have had their say on this health care law, the American people will have their say in November," he said. "With such political uncertainty surrounding the Affordable Care Act, it would not be prudent for the state to require Hoosiers to spend their time and hard-earned money on the implementation of a federal health care law that may be overturned in the next Congress."

Pence equated the initia-

tion of the health exchanges to a tax increase, an area on which he has based much of his campaign. "With our unemployment rate at 8.2 percent and too many Hoosiers out of work, I will not support the implementation of an Indiana exchange when there is a chance that doing so would lead to a tax increase on Hoosier employers," he said.

Pence made these other other points: There is too much "regulatory uncertainty" surrounding the opera-



Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb greets Mike and Karen Pence before they addressed the Indiana delegation in Tampa. (HPI Photo by Randy Gentry)

tion of exchanges; the federal government is still delinquent on complete guidance for exchanges; there is "fiscal uncertainty," saying the cost to Hoosier taxpayers for setting up our own exchange could be at least \$50 million per year and perhaps higher; and there is "legal uncertainty" as to whether the state-operated exchanges can mandate penalties on employers.

Gregg cited two points:

"First, the federal government is very prescriptive as it relates to EHB plans and in order to assist states in the selection of minimum benefits for plans in the Exchange, the federal government has named four options, all of which must cover services in 10 different areas. I fully support the Healthy Indiana Plan benefit levels. However,



the federal government requires maternity benefits and HIP does not pay for those services at this time. Accordingly, I support using Indiana's Healthy Indiana Plan as the basis for our EHB plan, with additional coverage as required by the federal government.

"Second, the federal government has offered several options to states in moving forward on an Exchange. States may choose a state-designed and controlled Exchange, and they can choose a hybrid system that allows for a partnership with the federal government but still allows for state control; or they can choose a regional partnership with other states."

Gregg said he is leaning toward a hybrid system.

Gregg added, "Our belief is that the most responsible position for the governor to take is the one that Gov. Daniels has been pursuing all along – to meet deadlines and apply for grant monies available to keep all options open to us." He said Daniels' actions have brought \$8 million to the state.

And for the first time in this campaign, Gregg and Pence exchanged shots. Gregg chided his opponent, saying, "Unfortunately, Congressman Pence has chosen to do

nothing. In doing so, he makes the choice to abdicate his responsibility and throw Hoosiers under the federal bureaucracy bus, the same bureaucratic bus that he claims he so adamantly opposes."

Pence retorted, saying, "Hoosiers don't want their hard-earned money spent implementing the Obama Administration's deeply flawed health care bureaucracy. Hoosiers now have a clear choice in this election. I choose more freedom, more innovation and Hoosier solutions over Obamacare."

A critical question, then, is whether Obamacare will be repealed. That would take a Mitt Romney win, along with a Republican Senate majority, as well as some vigorous legislative maneuvering unless the GOP wins 60 seats.

The GOP Senate majority – once seen as likely – is in grave doubt as a number of Republican Tea Party candidates such as Missouri's Todd Akin have floundered, just like they did in 2010. ❖

The columnist publishes at www.howeypolitics.com. Find him on Twitter @hwypol.

Romney, from page 1

And we deserve better! My children deserve better! My family deserves better. My country deserves better!"

"So here we stand," Romney said. "Americans have a choice. A decision. To make that choice, you need to know more about me and about where I will lead our country." Romney talked of his parents, saying at one point, "If every child could drift to sleep feeling wrapped in the love of their family – and God's love– this world would be a far more gentle and better place."

As Democrats talked about the Republican war on women, Romney explained, "As Governor of Massachusetts, I chose a woman Lt. Governor, a woman chief of staff, half of my cabinet and senior officials were women, and in business, I mentored and supported great women leaders who went on to run great companies."

Romney then described what he accomplished at Bain Capital, a target of the Obama campaign, and in doing so, used Indiana's Steel Dynamics as an example. "When I was 37, I helped start a small company," Romney explained. "My partners and I had been working for a company that was in the business of helping other businesses. So some of us had this idea that if we really believed our advice was helping companies, we should invest in companies. We should bet on ourselves and on our advice. That business we started with 10 people has now grown into a great American success story. Some of the companies we helped start are names you know. An office supply com-

pany called Staples – where I'm pleased to see the Obama campaign has been shopping; The Sports Authority, which became a favorite of my sons. We started an early childhood learning center called Bright Horizons that First Lady Michelle Obama rightly praised. At a time when nobody thought we'd ever see a new steel mill built in America, we took a chance and built one in a corn field in Indiana. Today Steel Dynamics is one of the largest steel producers in the United States."

President Obama, described by U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio as a "failed leader" drew a contrast from Romney. "But for too many Americans, these good days are harder to come by. How many days have you woken up feeling that something really special was happening in America?" Romney asked. "Many of you felt that way on Election Day four years ago. Hope and Change had a powerful appeal. But tonight I'd ask a simple question: If you felt that excitement when you voted for Barack Obama, shouldn't you feel that way now that he's President Obama? You know there's something wrong with the kind of job he's done as president when the best feeling you had, was the day you voted for him."

"Today," Romney intoned, "the time has come for us to put the disappointments of the last four years behind us."

It was the capstone of a six year odyssey that resulted in the 2012 Republican presidential nomination realized on Tuesday night.

The next day, before the American Legion conven-



tion in Indianapolis, Romney said, "A just and peaceful world depends on our strength and confidence. Our foreign policy should show clarity in purpose. Here at the American Legion convention, we are talking about the important issues that will determine our future as a nation and as a people. We have to decide what kind of country we want to live in." Romney said that while there are a number of concerns, "It can be summed up in one word: Jobs." He said that veterans returning from overseas battlefields "need and deserve good jobs. The president's greatest failure is he has not provided those jobs. As president, I will get American back to work again."

At both the RNC and the American Legion, Romney said that President Obama is poised to make \$1 trillion in military cuts, saying it will lead to tens of thousands of layoffs.

In Tampa, Romney told the delegates and a national TV audience, "Now is the time to restore the Promise of America. Many Americans have given up on this president but they haven't ever thought about giving up. Not on themselves. Not on each other. And not on America. To the majority of Americans who now believe that the future will not be better than the past, I can guarantee you this: if Barack Obama is re-elected, you will be right."

Romney promised that he would not raise "taxes on the middle class," inferring that Obama will, and that he will protect "the sanctity of life."

Romney then laid out the premises of his candidacy, that included a five-point plan - down from 55 he talked about earlier in the primary campaign. "I am running for president to help create a better future," Romney said. "A future where everyone who wants a job can find one. Where no senior fears for the security of their retirement. An America where every parent knows that their child will get an education that leads them to a good job and a bright horizon."

"And unlike the president, I have a plan to create 12 million new jobs," Romney said. "It has five steps."

Romney then counted them off: "First, by 2020, North America will be energy independent by taking full advantage of our oil and coal and gas and nuclear and renewables. Second, we will give our fellow citizens the skills they need for the jobs of today and the careers of tomorrow. When it comes to the school your child will attend, every parent should have a choice, and every child should have a chance. Third, we will make trade work for America by forging new trade agreements. And when nations cheat in trade, there will be unmistakable consequences. Fourth, to assure every entrepreneur and every job creator

that their investments in America will not vanish as have those in Greece, we will cut the deficit and put America on track to a balanced budget."

"And fifth," Romney said, "we will champion SMALL businesses, America's engine of job growth. That means reducing taxes on business, not raising them. It means simplifying and modernizing the regulations that hurt small business the most. And it means that we must rein in the skyrocketing cost of healthcare by repealing and replacing Obamacare."

"If I am elected President of these United States," Romney said, "I will work with all my energy and soul to restore that America, to lift our eyes to a better future. That future is our destiny. That future is out there. It is waiting for us. Our children deserve it, our nation depends upon it, the peace and freedom of the world require it. And with your help we will deliver it. Let us begin that future together tonight."

Prior to Romney and his introduction by Sen. Rubio, "mystery guest" Clint Eastwood did some strange improv, saying, "I remember 3 and a half years ago when Mr. Obama won the election. They were talking about hope and change. And they were lighting candles. I thought this was great. Oprah was crying. I was even crying. Until I found out there was 23 million unemployed people in this country. That is a national disgrace."

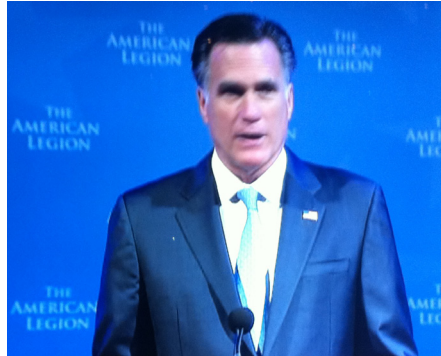
Reaction

Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke said, "It was the best speech I've ever heard him deliver. He spoke with great confidence, great humility. He was succinct but direct about his five-point vision for economic recovery" (Evansville Courier & Press).

Analyst Stu Rothenberg observed, "I thought it was OK, nothing more. Certainly not a game changer. Doubt convention changed the trajectory. We'll see."

New York Times columnist Ross Douthat added, "It was a highly effective reintroduction to Romney the man, with absolutely nothing in it to make Americans nervous about voting for him."

"Mitt Romney tonight expressed an appropriate American dream for everyone," said John Hammond, the new Republican National Committee member from Indianapolis (Indianapolis Star). "He spoke in a positive way about a second American century. And he dealt with the issues that this president unfortunately has not been able to solve." Former U.S. Attorney Deborah Daniels said the speech was "optimistic, it was uplifting. ... It just hit the mark." ❖





Hoosiers 'like' Romney, the 'love' could follow

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. - Hoosier Republicans "like" Mitt Romney.

But there is not the "love" that Hoosier voters and key operatives like L. Keith Bulen and Mitch Daniels expressed for past Republican giants like Presidents Nixon, Reagan and the Bushes.

We began seeing this trend in the March 26-27 Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground Poll of 505 likely Republican primary voters when Romney had just a 27-26% lead over Rick Santorum, while 35% were undecided. Among the "very conservative," Santorum had a 40-20% lead and among the "somewhat conservative," the two were tied at 25%. Among evangelical Christians, Santorum led Romney 34-21%.

In the May 23-24 Rasmussen Reports Poll, the love certainly wasn't pouring through as Romney had just a 48-42% lead over President Obama. This despite a Howey/DePauw general election set in that March 26-27 poll that put President Obama's approve/disapprove at 39/52%. Among Republicans, 86.8% disapproved of Obama. In that first head-to-head presidential poll in Indiana, Romney had a 49-40% lead over Obama in the Howey/DePauw survey. Keeping Obama even in the game were independent voters who approved of Obama by 41% while 42% disapproved.

Well after Santorum suspended his campaign, an April 30/May 1 Howey/DePauw Poll showed Romney getting just 60%, with 40% of Hoosier Republicans failing to get on board, backing Santorum, Ron Paul and Newt Gingrich.

But by the July 30/Aug. 1 Rasmussen Poll, Romney had jetted out to a 51-35% lead over Obama, essentially removing Indiana from the roster of states where the presi-

dential race would be competitive.

The reason that Mitt Romney will carry Indiana's 11 Electoral College votes is an evolving Hoosier dislike for Obama. The former Illinois senator lost the 2008 Indiana presidential primary by a razor thin margin to Hillary Clinton. But as the primary dust settled, Obama maintained about 30 campaign offices speckled across Indiana and took advantage of John McCain's lack of attention here, thus becoming the first Democrat since 1964 to carry the state, again by a razor thin margin.

President Obama began his term as very attentive to Indiana. He made his first official stop outside of Washington when he pitched his stimulus package in Elkhart in February 2009. He would return to the Elkhart area three more times (including a commencement speech at Notre Dame) as Obama guided General Motors and Chrysler through an expedited bankruptcy, saving an estimated 140,000 jobs here. In past times, being a "savior" of the auto industry here might have been enough to keep a politician like Obama competitive. Among those backing Obama, 63% favored the auto rescue, while only 27% of

Romney backers did in the Howey/DePauw survey.

Stimulus money also gushed into Indiana with \$5 billion helping to balance the 2009 biennial budget, keep teachers and cops on the job, fix hundreds of bridges and other "shovel ready" projects, spur automotive industry research on projects like lithium batteries, prop up Medicaid and, of course, 40% of the stimulus came in the form of tax cuts which are always popular here.

But with the jobless rate at 8.3% and the Affordable

Care Act - Obamacare - vastly opposed here, Hoosier Republicans have gradually warmed up to Romney. Some of the initial reticence about him may have been his "Romney-Care" universal health coverage he ushered as governor of that "liberal" bastion of Massachusetts.



Indiana Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb delivers the Indiana delegation to Mitt Romney on Tuesday, surrounded by Rex Early, Vice Chair Sandi Huddleston, Bob Grand, Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, Susan Brooks. (HPI Photo by Randy Gentry)



In Romney, Hoosiers hope they have a nominee who will bring his lengthy resume as a business turnaround artist and put it to work for a national recovery that has remained elusive for President Obama. As Romney told Politico over the weekend, "I know there are some people who do a very good job acting and pretend they're something they're not. You get what you see. I am who I am. I don't think everybody likes me. I don't believe that, by any means. But I do believe that people of this country are looking for someone who can get the country growing again with more jobs and more take-home pay, and I think they realize this president had four years to do that. ... He got every piece of legislation he wanted passed, and it didn't work. I think they want someone who has a different

record, and I do."

Romney is not a familiar figure to the average Hoosier. Unlike Obama and Hillary Clinton, who made close to 100 appearances in Indiana in 2008, Romney has jetted in for a quick speech at the invitation of Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb, fundraisers in Evansville and Schererville, and he was in Indianapolis Wednesday to address the American Legion the day before he gave the most important speech of his life on Thursday - accepting the GOP presidential nomination and laying out a course for recovery.

It will be those hopes that Hoosier Republicans like about Romney. The love could come later. ❖

Romney-Ryan: We will let you build it

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE - If this election were to be determined just on the basis of Mitt Romney's speaking ability, the Republicans will lose. He did fine, perhaps better than expected. He certainly did what he had to do: showed how much he loved his family, laid out a conservative vision for America and seemed to earnestly want to use his considerable skills to turn around this nation.



Mitt Romney is too humble a man to be surrounded by Greek columns and be treated like some sort of a god. One of the most insightful lines of the convention

was from Ann Romney when she said that Mitt viewed charitable giving "as a privilege, not as a political talking point."

The Romneys established how much they love their family and their origins from humble roots. People mocked the idea that the Romneys shopped at Costco but, when you heard family stories about how Mitt is cheap, it reminds one that many successful businessmen are that way. Quarter here, quarter there and soon it adds up to a dollar. I think the Romneys may shop at Costco more than is believed. We could use a President who thinks cheap.

Ratings cumulatively for the convention are down. As the media breaks into a thousand pieces, it

is harder for any message to penetrate. The media bias for the liberals is established so not a shock, but even considering those challenges, I believe that some of Romney's softer image made it through. Whether it is enough to counter the Democrats attacks, and the common assumption that the Romneys are just typical rich people, I rather doubt. "Nice man, a little out of touch" probably wasn't altered enough to survive the constant onslaught. But Mitt was humanized somewhat, which may be enough.

The Republicans decided on a different strategy. Mitt Romney was Mitt Romney, so let's sell his strengths. So the real theme of the convention revolved around this core set of ideas: In America hard work is rewarded. President Obama believes government produces jobs. President Obama has never created jobs and has never even worked in a business. Mitt Romney created jobs, saved the Olympics and turned Massachusetts around when governor. Whether or not Obama inherited a mess, he made it worse. Obama has failed, so why would we think the next four years won't continue to just get worse. America needs a business leader who understands how jobs are created. We should hire that guy if we really want jobs.

This theme was hammered over and over. Business





stories from owners saying how they built their businesses. Others pounding home this core message: the government doesn't have money. It is our money. Money that comes from business profits results in tax revenue as well as from those they employ which is then used to build roads. In other words, we built the business and we built the infrastructure, not the government.

Then there is this deficit problem. Will America collapse like Greece? Will debt drown us? Paul Ryan is the only person in Washington with an actual budget plan that addresses the problem. The Convention was his chance to make his case. He did.

Obviously Ryan's efforts to explain that Medicare cannot survive unless it is reformed and that his plan is the one that can save it, will be a staple of our political diet the next few months because the Democrats have no original ideas of their own to talk about. What are they supposed to do? Defend the failed policies of this Administration? It will just be blaming everyone else, and smearing Romney and Ryan. Next week will be the world's biggest Whine Festival.

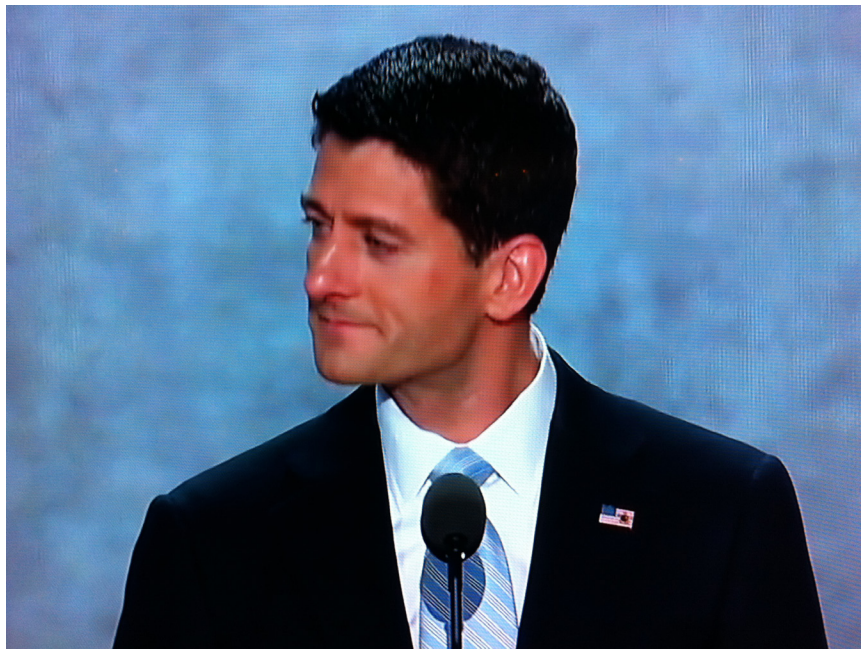
The most significant breakthrough at this Republican Convention was not the speeches of Romney and Ryan but that of the rising bench. Like most Notre Dame football fanatics, I follow the next game closely but also every rumor about recruiting. What's next?

Political rock star after political rock star were nationally launched at this Convention (which was fortunate because not many real rock stars were there, and the music was stunningly mediocre). One could not have dreamed up a more dynamic, brainy, inspiring, humorous, and articulate group than former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, New Mexico Governor Susanna Martinez, Utah congressional candidate Mia Love and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley?

And our new emerging males were pretty amazing as well: Senator-to-be Ted Cruz of Texas, Governor

Luis Fortuno of Puerto Rico, Governor Brian Sandoval of Nevada, and Senator Marco Rubio of Florida (plus Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana who missed the Convention because of the storm Issac).

Each told a variation of the story of the American dream. It is the dawning of a different era in America when the most electric and solidly conservative speeches at the Republican Convention came from Hispanics, African-Americans and Asian-Americans. They are successful and they are young. This is the Democrats' nightmare.



Vice Presidential nominee Paul Ryan addresses the GOP convention on Wednesday, rallied the troops, but the facts in his speech have been challenged.

The goal of this convention was to illustrate that government does not create jobs, people do. We built it. And also to demonstrate that over-regulation, taxes and damage from deficit spending, kill jobs. We Republicans have Governors who have led the way to job growth and balanced budgets without tax increases. We have a Vice-Presidential nominee with the budget that can do the same at the federal level. And we have a Presidential candidate who has proven that he is the man to implement

this team effort.

President Obama has proven you can win with false promises and false hope. The school is still out on whether you can tell the hard truth win the Presidency. People will have to choose between romance and tough love, between glamour and jobs.

This convention shaped the battle as clearly as it can be shaped. Ultimately though, in a rather disjointed but Clint Eastwood way, Eastwood summed up this Presidential race most clearly: if somebody's not doing the job, you gotta let them go. ❖

Souder is a former Indiana Republican member of Congress.



Walorski carries GOP banner at Tampa as her 2nd CD race tightens

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**
and **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

WASHINGTON – Jackie Walorski essentially carried the Hoosier banner at the Republican National Convention this week, addressing delegates on Tuesday afternoon.

But on the home front, the perception is that the 2nd CD nominee is facing a much tougher challenge from Democrat Brendan Mullen than most thought after the new maps appeared to have created a more Republican district and incumbent Joe Donnelly opted for the U.S. Senate race.



Walorski, who gained a reputation in the Indiana General Assembly as a partisan warrior, struck “bipartisan” chords in Tampa, further evidence that she is hewing to a more centrist path. She cited a litany of balanced budgets and “problem solving” in her home state, citing bipartisan cooperation.

“I’m proud to represent Indiana, which we affectionately refer to as the Hoosier State,” Walorski told the delegates. “Hoosiers cherish values like common sense...hard work, and problem solving. And there’s a lot Washington can learn from the Hoosier State.”

Walorski noted that Gov. Mitch Daniels faced a budget shortfall, but added, “We didn’t play partisan games. We came together, rolled up our sleeves and turned a billion dollar deficit into a surplus. In the face of record unemployment, we understood that more government spending won’t create jobs. That’s why we passed common sense reforms that made it easier to do business

– and create jobs – in our great state. As a result, Indiana was rated as the best Midwest state to do business in and we are among the nation’s leaders in job growth.”

In a shift from Republican U.S. Senate nominee Richard Mourdock, who has repeatedly rejected “bipartisanship,” Walorski said, “In the Hoosier State, we proved a very simple lesson: Working together is the best way to solve our problems. And Washington can do the same. I’m ready to carry their torch to Washington and prove there will never be a mountain too high for us to climb; the American spirit will always persevere. Fellow Hoosiers, it’s your time to take back the country.”

Late last week, Washington Democrats were pointing out that Walorski played into Mullen’s campaign strategy in the 2nd CD by launching an ad this week that portrays Mullen as a “D.C. insider.” In his response to the ad, Mullen has pivoted to a key campaign theme – his military service. On Thursday, Mullen, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy who served in the Iraq war, launched a veterans’ coalition. The co-chair of the group, Mullen’s West Point classmate and fellow Iraq veteran Chad Gibson, appeared in a response ad calling the assertions in Walorski’s spot “un-American.”

In a conference call with reporters on Thursday, Gibson denounced Walorski’s attack. “It concerns me when I see that negativity so early in a campaign when there are so many positive views that can be discussed,” said Gibson, an Osceola Republican. “That says a lot about her character.”

Mullen was stationed in Washington at the end of his military service and lived there for five years before moving back to the district last year. Mullen compared his military career favorably to Walorski’s time in the state legislature. “It’s clear that my opponent refuses to run on her record... which is that of a career politician,” he said.

Mullen was opportunistic in highlighting his military background because Walorski never mentioned his service in her ad. An Air Force veteran from Elkhart, Bill Rohman, defended Walorski’s record on military issues and criticized Mullen for his ad in a statement on Wednesday.

“As a veteran, I am deeply disappointed that a fellow veteran would condone the



2nd CD Republican nominee Jackie Walorski waves from the podium at the Republican National Convention on Tuesday. She was the only Hoosier to address the convention. (HPI Photo by Randy Gentry)



name-calling aired in his attack ad," Rohman said. "We are all Americans, and to engage in such rhetoric is inappropriate for this political race." Brendan DelToro, Walorski's campaign manager, said the "politician" label Mullen hung on Walorski rings hollow. "The six years that Jackie spent in the state legislature working to craft bipartisan solutions to create jobs and support Hoosier families does not constitute a career politician," DelToro said in a statement.



Mullen also announced this week that former Gov. Joe Kernan will join a coalition of veterans and military families who support his candidacy. Kernan explained, "Brendan and I both served in the military because we believe in standing up and fighting for what's right. Jackie Walorski's desperate attempt to smear Brendan's military record when he put his life on the line, while she spent those years as a career politician, says a lot about her character. I'm here today, standing up with other veterans of all backgrounds, to support Brendan because he'll bring common sense back to a dysfunctional Congress."

Horse Race Status: Leans Walorski

U.S. Senate: Mourdock goes low profile

Where's Richard?

While other Tea Party headliners like U.S. Sens. Rand Paul and Marco Rubio and Texas Senate nominee Ted Cruz, and even Jackie Walorski were front stage center at the Republican National Convention, Indiana Senate nominee Richard Mourdock was lying low. He resurfaced Thursday night at a Hamilton County GOP event where he watched Mitt Romney's acceptance speech with Mike Pence. The biggest news he made this week was a new TV featuring an endorsement from Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, and a Columbia Club fundraiser featuring gubernatorial nominee Mike Pence which raised a reported \$100,000.

But Mourdock was a no-show at the RNC. And he's been inconspicuous on a number of fronts. When Mitt Romney tabbed House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan for his ticket, Mourdock was mum. The word in political circles was that Mourdock has been told to keep a low profile and let the Super PACs do the talking.

As South Bend Tribune columnist Jack Colwell observed, Mourdock needs to "Say little and let the PACs do the talking. Mourdock said some wild things in the



primary, such as claiming Washington needs more partisanship, not less. His way with words, his unusual proposals and the nasty tone of the primary race with Lugar left Mourdock with some high negative ratings. He must count on the PACs to drive up negative ratings for Donnelly. And he needs to avoid some blunder that makes

him look as brilliant as Akin."

Assailing the Mourdock attack on bipartisanship last week was former senator and governor Evan Bayh, who did a campaign swing with Joe Donnelly through northern Indiana. "We need more practical problem-solvers in Washington," Bayh said about Donnelly in Fort Wayne. "Enough with the food fight already."

The day after his primary election victory, Mourdock told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, "The bipartisanship that we've had the last few years has taken us to the brink of bankruptcy." But Bayh claimed last week that the stalemate in Congress over expiring tax cuts and automatic budget reductions "is the result of the extremism in Washington. To solve that issue, what do you want, more extremists?" he asked. "Or do you want people who will actually work together to create practical solutions and get the job done? I think pretty clearly it has to be the latter, and that's the approach Joe Donnelly will take."

"Sen. Bayh and Sen. Lugar are always such great examples of the Hoosier way, which is common sense, which is working together, focusing on what's best for our country," Donnelly said during a visit to Paint the Town Graphics as part of his and Bayh's "Main Street Tour."

Meanwhile, the TV ads were airing at a fierce pace. Mourdock began airing an ad featuring "Obama Joe" as he responded to a Democratic Super PAC ad that has painted him as an enemy of Medicare and Social Security. Democrats have tracker video of Mourdock asking a Madison, Ind., Tea Party group to find the words "Medicare" and Social Security in the Constitution. "Nowhere is the word 'entitlement' present in the enumerated powers," Mourdock said.

"Stop these lies and distortions," the Mourdock ad says. "Richard Mourdock is committed to protecting and preserving Social Security and Medicare," a narrator says as the state treasurer's ad begins. "It's personal for Mourdock. His parents, veterans of World War II, rely on these



important programs," the narrator says as a photo of Mourdock's parents is displayed. "It's Joe Donnelly who already voted twice for 'Obamacare,' cutting \$700 billion from Medicare, denying services for seniors, cutting Medicare Advantage," the narrator says. "No wonder they call Donnelly 'Obama Joe.'" The ad is airing in Indianapolis, Evansville and Terre Haute, and ends Donnelly's nearly two-week run as the race's only candidate airing ads.

Another ad by Americans for Prosperity tells viewers to call Donnelly and tell him to stop spending tax dollars. The Donnelly campaign cried foul. "Richard Mourdock is hiding behind this misleading ad that is ignorant of Joe's record as a responsible steward of taxpayer money," said Elizabeth Shappell, communications director. "Americans for Prosperity refuses to disclose where their money comes from, so there is zero accountability for the lies this special interest group is putting on our airwaves. Joe supports a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, has voted against \$2.4 trillion in federal spending, and has returned more than \$600,000 from his office budget to the Treasury. "Richard Mourdock relies upon nameless billionaires to prop up his 'my way or the highway' campaign, while Joe continues to travel the state talking about his Hoosier common sense approach to getting things done for middle class families."

Donnelly's campaign unveiled its latest ad featuring the congressman's wife, Jill, talking about Joe's common sense approach to cutting spending and being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. "Joe Donnelly has the Hoosier common sense to know that we need to cut government spending," said Shappell. "That's why he voted to cut \$2.4 trillion in spending, and that's why he returned over \$600,000 of his office budget. He wants to keep tax rates low for everyone while our economy recovers, and he supports a balanced budget amendment. Richard Mourdock would rather cut Medicare while protecting tax breaks for Wall Street and big oil corporations. Joe Donnelly is the candidate in Indiana's U.S. Senate race who has the same



Richard Mourdock is shown here in Democratic Party tracker video challenging the Madison Tea Party members to find entitlements in the U.S. Constitution.

approach as Hoosier families, spend less than you take in and keep an eye on every penny so we can provide for our children and grandchildren." The ad has started running statewide on broadcast and cable.

Mourdock picked up an endorsement from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, but even that was a bit strange. When the Chamber endorsed U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar during the homestretch of the primary campaign,

Chamber President Kevin Brinegar and Indiana Manufacturers Association President Pat Kiely joined Lugar at a press conference. The Chamber endorsement was announced by the Mourdock campaign on its website and did not receive wide media coverage.

Brinegar said in a Fort Wayne Journal Gazette story, "Your strong support for the free enterprise system and economic issues is very important and needed in Congress. Your service as state treasurer has been distinguished and accomplished in positioning our state on strong fiscal grounds. Further, your thirty years of private sector experience in energy and related issues will bring an important perspective and focus of particular importance to our state and nation."

Nonpartisan political analyst Jennifer Duffy of the Cook Political Report said that the race between Donnelly and Mourdock is "fairly even" and "probably deserves a place in our toss-up column" in a blog posted by Robert Schlesinger of U.S. News. Duffy's statement echoes race ratings from The Hill and Real Clear Politics, each of which have formally rated the Indiana race as a toss-up.

While Cook still has the Indiana Senate race rated as Lean Republican, Duffy described the race as "fairly even" because "I've never seen a candidate have a worse first 48 hours than Richard Mourdock," who stumbled out of the gate, including trying to define compromise as the other side completely capitulating. "Indiana ... probably deserves a place in our toss-up column," she said.

Horse Race Status: Tossup



Governor: Pence addresses RNC delegation

Republican Mike Pence addressed a bleary Indiana RNC delegation on Wednesday morning after arriving at Tampa in the wee hours. But he and Democrat John Gregg rolled out new TV ads and several policy positions.

Pence launched his seventh TV ad, featuring wife Karen talking about education. "My husband, Mike Pence, believes teaching is a calling and Indiana has some of the best teachers in the world," says Karen Pence in the ad. "Mike wants to improve education by giving parents more choices and teachers more freedom to teach."

Pence's vision calls for improving the math and reading skills of elementary students, raising graduation rates and increasing career, technical and vocational options for Indiana high school students. More information about his vision and policy proposals can be found at www.mikepence.com/issues. "Mike will be an education governor," Karen Pence says at the end of the ad. "I should know – I've been educating him for years." The ad began airing Tuesday at 5 a.m. on broadcast television and cable statewide.

Pence and Gregg differed on a future of nuclear power. Appearing before the Chamber Energy Summit, Pence said Indiana should consider expanding into all energy sources, including nuclear power. Pence recalled when the troubled Marble Hill nuclear plant was abandoned in Indiana in the late 1970s and also the meltdown in Japan in March 2011. "We want to go into this process carefully and thoughtfully, but when you look at much of the industrialized world today, the technology, the safety record of nuclear energy is one that I think Hoosiers ought to be willing to look at," he said.

Gregg was skeptical, telling the summit on Wednesday, "I don't think you could get the permits, the regulations, the sign-offs and everything done to get a nuclear plant. I have no idea how many years it would take, but I'm pretty sure it would take more than one governor's term."

The two campaigns traded shots over "social issues" in an Associated Press story by Tom LoBianco that moved over the weekend and was picked up by a number of Indiana websites and newspapers. "People ask why are you talking about social issues?" said Gregg. "I want to point out that I feel like a game warden. I'm chasing a leopard that's changed his spots." Gregg is frustrated because as a pro-life Democrat he thinks he is closer to the mainstream and he wants Pence to help him point out, for example, that Pence has sponsored legislation that would ban abortion even in cases of rape and incest. "You just can't all of a sudden say you're about jobs," said Gregg, "and disregard your past."

Pence, however, isn't running from his past. "I am who I am and I hold the views that I hold," he said. He made it clear that if he becomes governor he will take action on social issues. "I'm pro-life. If the legislature sends me pro-life legislation," he said, "I'll sign it."

Gregg also blasted Pence over his opposition to Pell Grants. Said Gregg for Governor Communications Director Daniel Altman, "Congressman Pence's statements are not only insulting to students, they're also just plain wrong. There could not be a better way to secure our country's economic future than educating our young people. The congressman's denial of that reality is incredibly shortsighted and his attitude will harm future generations of Hoosiers."

Pence was endorsed by the Indiana Association of Realtors.

Horse Race Status:

Likely Pence

5th CD: Reske presses Brooks on GOP platform

Democrat nominee Scott Reske was joined Wednesday by current and former female state elected officials and community leaders to call on Susan Brooks to stand up against the Republican platform on women's health issues.

"While the race in Indiana's 5th Congressional District should be focused on jobs and the economy, my opponent is in Florida supporting an extremist agenda that will harm women's



5th CD nominee Susan Brooks with the Indiana delegation in Tampa. (HPI Photo by Randy Gentry)



health care choices and distracts from what should be the real issues in this election," said Reske. "The real issues are jobs and the economy, reducing the national debt, and protecting Social Security and Medicare."

Reske said the Republican platform gives no exceptions for rape and incest, and no exceptions in cases where the life of the woman is in danger. "My opponent and others tout themselves as advocates of less government, yet nothing could be more intrusive than government telling a victim of rape or incest that she has no choice," said Reske.

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the state's largest organization representing Hoosier job creators, endorsed Brooks. The endorsement decision, made by the Chamber Congressional Action Committee (ICCAC), was based on Brooks' combination of experience and her pro-growth positions on state and federal issues that impact Indiana's business climate. The ICCAC endorsement statement cited Brooks' experience in education and workforce development issues.

"Susan Brooks is uniquely qualified to deal with the two most important issues facing our state and our country, education and job creation. She has firsthand knowledge at Ivy Tech Community College about workforce development to energize job creation efforts to compete in the global marketplace. She also has real world experience with Hoosier employers and understands what policies help and what policies will hinder job growth and economic expansion," said Kevin Brinegar, president of the Chamber of Commerce. "We are confident that Susan Brooks will prove to be an outstanding addition to Congress and a very effective advocate for her constituents and our state. Susan Brooks is

uniquely qualified to serve in Congress and will be a strong advocate for free enterprise, job creation and growing our economy."

Brooks has also received the endorsement of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce because of her support for policies that produce sustained economic growth and job creation. "Susan Brooks knows that the American recovery will only succeed when Washington gets out of the way and allows small businesses to grow. Her strong record of advancing conditions that foster growth and employment in Indiana is exactly the kind of leadership we need in Congress," said Rob Engstrom, senior vice president and national political director of the U.S. Chamber. "On behalf of the U.S. Chamber's 300,000 members across the country, we're proud to endorse her and stand with her in her campaign for Congress."

Horse Race Status: Safe Brooks

8th CD: Crooks begins TV ads

Democrat Dave Crooks released his campaign's first TV ad highlighting his working-class upbringing and his frustration with the budget priorities coming out of Washington. In the ad, called



Democrat Dave Crooks went back to his hometown to film his first TV ad in his 8th CD race against U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon, pictured above in Tampa (left) with U.S. Rep. Todd Young. (HPI Photo by Randy Gentry)



"Hoosier Story," Crooks discusses his family's first-hand experience with outsourcing and his disappointment with politicians' empty promises to do something about this job-killing practice. Crooks also discusses his frustration with the budget priorities in Congress, specifically highlighting spending on foreign aid to countries opposed to American interests and ongoing attempts to slash funding for the Medicare program.

"Like most Hoosiers, I've worked hard my entire life, and I'm sick and tired of Congress sending my hard-earned tax dollars to countries that hate us while at the same time they're trying to gut the Medicare program that we've spent our entire working lives paying into. These priorities are absolutely wrong, and I'm running for Congress to do something about it," he said. Crooks faces freshman Republican U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon.

Horse Race Status: Leans Bucshon

Indiana General Assembly

SD50: Firefighters endorse Becker

Republican State Sen. Vaneta Becker has been endorsed by the Professional Fire Fighters Union of Indiana. PFFUI President Tom Hanify said Becker's endorsement is due to her "dedication and hard work on behalf of the men and women of the fire service" and "commitment in the Indiana General Assembly to improving training standards, safety standards and protecting public pensions for firefighters and their families." "The brave men and women of Indiana's fire service put their lives on the line every day to protect Hoosiers," Becker said. "I am honored and very grateful for their support."

HD97: Moed cites housing issue

A former Statehouse senior policy analyst and current Garfield Park homeowner, House District 97 candidate Justin Moed (pictured) has launched the final phase of his "Putting You and Our Neighborhoods First" campaign with 68 days to go until Election Day, November 6. Since Moed officially announced his candidacy in early March, he and scores of volunteers have knocked on over 14,000 doors and spoken directly with more than 2,000 residents. "I believe that to lead is to serve,



so my campaign has been about listening and learning from the people I hope to represent as much as it has been about sharing policy proposals," said Moed. "This is about real representation and taking the real concerns of voters to the State House. I've engaged in an open dialogue with everyone about the problems in their neighborhoods and have gained huge insight about what citizens' want accomplished." When asked about the concerns he's heard most, Moed answered: "The issue I hear most from people at their doors is abandoned housing and foreclosures. Citizens are anxious about decreased property values, increased crime, weeds, and other problems related to this blight."

Horse Race Status: Leans Moed

Presidential: First Lady campaigns in Indy

First Lady Michelle Obama told a robust crowd at a fundraiser last week at Lucas Oil Stadium their help was crucial because the election could come down to a few thousand votes (Indianapolis Star). "He cannot do this alone," she said. "He needs your help. You've got to have his back."

She touted President Barack Obama's work on the signature Affordable Care Act – dubbed Obamacare by opponents – as well as his appointments to the Supreme Court, tax breaks for the middle class and support of women's health-care rights and immigration reform. But she cautioned that change takes time. "That is really the choice we face: Are we going to continue the change we have begun and the progress we made? Or are we going to stand by and watch everything we worked so hard for just slip away? We can't turn around now. In this country, we need to keep moving forward. In America, we always move forward."

Mayoral

HARPER TO RUN FOR FORT WAYNE MAYOR: Election Day 2015 is still more than 1,100 days away, but a Republican Fort Wayne councilman has confirmed he will run for mayor in the city's next election cycle (Fort Wayne News-Sentinel). Councilman Mitch Harper, R-4th, informally announced his plans to a group of fellow Republicans during a barbecue at his home, making him the first candidate to publicly confirm that he would enter the race. "Things have to be put together block by block and brick by brick, and that's what we're doing," Harper said. Neither Democratic Mayor Tom Henry nor any other Republicans have said they would run in 2015. Other Republican names mentioned as possible candidates include councilmen Tom Didier and John Crawford. ❖



How does Mourdock win? Say little, let the PACs talk

By **JACK COLWELL**

SOUTH BEND - Polls show a tossup in the Senate race between Joe Donnelly, who wants to be Indiana's new Evan Bayh, and Richard Mourdock, who doesn't want to be Indiana's version of Todd Akin. Let's consider some questions about this race.



Q. If the state goes decisively for Mitt Romney, as now expected, can Donnelly, the Democratic congressman from Granger in Indiana's 2nd District, still win?

A. Yes. It's possible.

Q. But what are his chances?

A. Now, 50-50, good for a candidate starting out not well known statewide. But if a tie continues into October, Donnelly's chances of winning will diminish. That's because the superPACs that poured in money for the Republican primary, helping Mourdock to defeat Sen. Dick Lugar, will spend whatever they think it takes by campaign close for negative TV to destroy Donnelly. They want to protect their investment in Mourdock and prove they didn't create a Republican loser.

Q. Will Donnelly have help to hit back?

A. Yes. He does now. A PAC supporting Democratic candidates bought TV time last week to hit at Mourdock, the state treasurer, for questioning the constitutionality of Social Security and Medicare.

Q. So will TV spending even out?

A. No. The Donnelly side will be outspent. Amounts raised by the PACs and parties thus far make that certain. Also, money the conservative PACs would have spent in Missouri to support Akin could be shifted to Indiana to support Mourdock.

Q. Is money for TV everything in this race?

A. Of course not. Not everything. But it sure is something. And the reason Donnelly needs to pull ahead before October is so he can withstand a closing TV blitz against him and the possibility of having to overcome a Republican tide in Indiana for Romney and for Republican Mike Pence in the governor's race. So Donnelly wants to be Indiana's new Evan Bayh.

Q. What does Evan Bayh have to do with it?

A. Well, first of all, Bayh, long the most popular Democrat in Indiana, campaigned extensively last week with Donnelly. That helps to reinforce Donnelly's image as a moderate, a moderate with stances similar to Bayh's. Preserving that image will be vital when negative TV hits to

portray Donnelly as a wild-eyed socialist out to destroy the American way of life.

Q. Was Bayh's moderate image what got him elected as senator and as governor?

A. It was a big part of it. He, like Donnelly in his congressional wins, got solid Democratic support, despite grumbling by liberals about siding too often with Republican views, and strong support as well from independents and some moderate Republicans. That enabled Bayh to survive with a lot of ticket-splitting for him at times when Republican presidential nominees won big in Indiana.

Q. How much of a Republican tide did Bayh survive for senator?

A. In 2004, George W. Bush beat the hapless John Kerry by over a half million votes in Indiana. At the same time, Bayh won re-election to the Senate by over a half million votes. Bayh also won races for governor twice when Republican presidential nominees swept through Indiana.

Q. Can Donnelly win if Romney carries Indiana by a half million votes?

A. Probably not. Bayh had already built up saturation name recognition and high positive ratings by '04. But although Romney is expected to carry Indiana, President Obama pulled a big Indiana upset last time. Probably no upset this time. But not necessarily a big loss.

Q. What can Mourdock do?

A. Avoid an Akin moment.

Q. How?

A. Say little and let the PACs do the talking. Mourdock said some wild things in the primary, such as claiming Washington needs more partisanship, not less. His way with words, his unusual proposals and the nasty tone of the primary race with Lugar left Mourdock with some high negative ratings. He must count on the PACs to drive up negative ratings for Donnelly. And he needs to avoid some blunder that makes him look as brilliant as Akin. After all, Akin, who had the lead, would still be headed for the Senate if he had just shut up about "legitimate" rape. ❖

Colwell has covered politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.



The end to Philpot's political omnipotence

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – Another sorry chapter in Lake County politics came to a close last week with the conviction of Coroner Thomas Philpot on federal theft and fraud charges.

As much as the conviction, Philpot will be remembered as being a perpetual campaigner who ran eight times for four different offices over the last 20 years. He won five of those elections. Despite his energy and direction, Philpot never figured out what he wanted to be.



I first met Dr. Thomas Philpot when he emerged from obscurity and ran for county coroner. After having a series of medical doctors elected coroner, Philpot entered the coroner's race as a podiatrist. While that was perfectly legal, many charged that he lacked the qualifications to be coroner.

Nevertheless, Philpot waged a tireless campaign and won the office. Some thought he never slept. As coroner, Philpot was a constant presence at homicide scenes, even at 3 in the morning. Because the Lake County coroner doesn't take office until a year after being elected, Philpot didn't take over as coroner until January 1994.

Philpot seemingly had the attention span of a gerbil. With less than a year as coroner, Philpot announced that he was running for Hammond mayor in 1995. Republican Duane Dedelow narrowly beat him.

Less than a year after being rejected in Hammond, Philpot was back on the ballot in 1996 seeking re-election as coroner. With his intense style of campaigning, he won easily. He started the second term as coroner in January 1998. Later that year, he announced he again would seek the Hammond mayor's job in 1999. Dedelow beat him again.

He left the coroner's office at the end of his second term in 2001. The two-term limit prohibited another run. The only time in the last 20 years that Philpot wasn't holding an office was 2002 and 2003. He was elected county clerk in 2002, but because of the lag, didn't take office until January 2004.

Somewhere along the line Philpot picked up a law degree and did a bit of practicing. But he no longer was doing the podiatrist thing. In 2006, Philpot was re-elected

county clerk. And here is where his political life got very interesting – intertwined to the point of being ridiculous. Here goes.

As he started his second and final term as clerk in January 2008, he announced that he would be running again for coroner in the May 2008 primary. He won. While he was still county clerk in late 2009 – and waiting to take over as coroner in January 2010 – he announced that he would run for sheriff in 2010.

Here's a guy full of omnipotence, fueled by an increasing arrogance. He was in office, had another in his back pocket and was seeking the most powerful office in county government. Because of his heightened political clout and unabashed arrogance, Philpot became a major player in county politics – often using intimidation to corral votes.

By then, Philpot had hooked up with political operative Robert Cantrell, a master at political intimidation, ballot manipulation and vote-buying. Philpot thought he couldn't be beaten. He was bigger, so he thought, than any politician in the history of the county.

Then the unthinkable happened in 2010. Not only did he not win the Democratic sheriff's primary, he finished fourth. Bye, bye golden boy. Suddenly, he wouldn't have a platform when his term as coroner expired at the end of 2012.

Losing the sheriff's primary seemed mild compared to what was waiting for Philpot. The feds indicted him on charges that he illegally gave himself \$24,000 in bonuses from the child support incentive fund while clerk. Philpot said his attorney told him it was legal. Although he returned the money, the jury convicted him after a mere three hours of deliberation.

The assistant U.S. attorney summed it up, saying, "The taxpayers trusted him as a lawyer, a doctor and a two-term coroner. He stole money from them."

Although a sentencing date hasn't been set, Philpot most assuredly will be going to prison. Senior U.S. District Judge James T. Moody has a disdain for elected officials who go bad. He has seen so much of it.

Cantrell is still in prison following his conviction on public corruption charges. Maybe he and Philpot can share a cell and discuss where they went wrong. Arrogance would be a good starting point. ❖

Rich James is the former editorial page editor and columnist for the Post-Tribune in Merrillville.



Vision lacking in Hoosier thinking

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Economic development is not a single story told in a hurried voice. Rather, economic development is an intertwining of two tales told patiently with significant attention to detail. There is the major theme of big projects which give rise to hundreds and thousands of small investments that form the second tale.



As in the past, Indiana's economy performed poorly during the recession and then improved its performance during this on-going recovery. Relative to the nation, we ride a roller coaster with sharp declines and satisfying climbs.

Despite these dramatic movements, the on-going business of economic development proceeds, often slowly, sometimes with halting hesitation, but progress is

evident.

Interstate 69 is being built from Evansville north to Bloomington and Indianapolis. The Ohio River bridge is going to be built to connect southern Indiana with the east side of Louisville. The BP Refinery in Lake County is under construction. Upgrading US 31 from South Bend to Kokomo and Indianapolis is taking shape in pieces.

These may be the biggest of the billion dollar projects now in process, but many other public and private infrastructure efforts are underway across the state. The state will benefit from each of them as long as quality control is enforced to protect workers, users, and the environment. Thanks to vigilant local groups, each project is under on-going scrutiny to supplement the state's often lax supervision.

Major projects to bring high speed Internet service to every community in every county are vital economic development programs. Added capital resources for our schools at all levels would be very beneficial. (Only this year did the Indianapolis Public Schools realize the goal of air-conditioning in every school.)

Simultaneously, we are treated to reports of minor, local economic develop-

ment projects where new or existing firms announce an investment promising some increased employment. Each is almost insignificant, but in the aggregate they are the substance of economic growth.

Because major investments are made in public and private infrastructure, these small investments are possible. They are made in response to the opportunities opened by the larger investments; they are the confirmation of the efficacy of infrastructure development.

What is being considered today that will stimulate the state's economy 10 or 20 years from now? High speed rail offers an enticing future. Indiana, however, seems indifferent to solidifying or even working on a plan. The proposed Illiana Expressway solves little of our transit needs. Upgrading small town airports remains on a neglected agenda. Local transit systems in this Hoosier Holyland are pathetic despite valiant efforts to make them work in hostile environments. Without adequate public transit, land use patterns will not change and the environmental challenges of sprawl will worsen. Our water and sewer systems may be in desperate need of renovation, but who is talking about them during this election season?

The Indiana gubernatorial and legislative elections will remain dull and disheartening until the candidates express some vision for the Indiana infrastructure of the future. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, writer and speaker formerly with the IU Kelley School of Business.

HOWEY
Politics Indiana

When Chris Cillizza of the *Washington Post* posed the question to readers across the nation - Who's the most influential political journalist in your state? - the answer in Indiana was this: Brian A. Howey of *Howey Politics Indiana*. Since 1994, *Howey Politics Indiana* has provided news, analysis and commentary from throughout Indiana and Washington D.C. Howey reaches the most influential insiders with his newsletters and the masses with his weekly newspaper column and www.howeypolitics.com.

Photo: Howey with Richard Lugar and Sam Nunn in Russia.

The Washington Post
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2007

"The Best Indiana Political Reporter: *Howey Politics Indiana* editor Brian Howey."



Charlie Cook, National Journal: Perhaps the one lesson that most needs to be relearned from one election cycle to the next is the tendency of campaign politics to surprise. This cycle is no exception, especially when it comes to Senate races. For the first 13 months of the cycle, Republicans seemed poised to pick up the four seats they need to take the majority. All the important factors were working in their favor. Democrats were defending more seats—23 to just 10 for Republicans. Democrats had more retirements in their ranks, giving them seven open seats compared with just two for Republicans. And Democrats had more vulnerable seats than the GOP. In late February, though, Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine announced she would retire, giving Republicans a third open seat, and one that is especially vulnerable. Then, just last week, Rep. Todd Akin, the GOP nominee who will take on Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill in Missouri, uttered the words “legitimate rape” and very likely doomed his party’s chances against McCaskill, the most vulnerable incumbent seeking reelection this cycle. Now, the prospect of a Republican Senate majority in 2013 doesn’t look as inevitable as it did just seven months ago. Snowe’s retirement put Republicans’ chances of winning a majority at 50 percent, down from 65 percent to 70 percent. Akin’s reprehensible comment further lowered those odds, at least as long as he opts to stay in the race. Republicans have many ways to solve the math problem to get to 51 seats, but what follows is the simplest equation. For the sake of argument, let’s stipulate that they pick up the Democratic open seat in Nebraska.

Let’s also assume that independent candidate Angus King wins the Republican-held open seat in Maine and opts to caucus with Democrats. This leaves Republicans in search of four seats. Six Democratic-held seats are currently in the Toss-Up column: the one held by Sen. Jon Tester in Montana and the open seats in Hawaii, New Mexico, North Dakota, Virginia, and Wisconsin. To win the majority, Republicans would need to win four of these. Democrats currently have leads outside the margin of error in Hawaii and New Mexico; Republicans are ahead in Wisconsin. The races in Virginia and North Dakota are statistically tied. Republicans would also have to hold on to their own vulnerable seat in Massachusetts, where Sen. Scott Brown is running for a full term, and in Nevada, where Sen. Dean Heller is doing the same. Without Missouri in the mix, Republicans will likely try to put another Democratic-held seat or two in play.

The most likely targets are in Florida, where Sen. Bill Nelson is seeking reelection, and in Michigan, where Sen. Debbie Stabenow is seeking a third term. A longer shot would be the open-seat contest in Connecticut. Meanwhile, though, Democrats are also hoping to expand

the playing field of vulnerable Republican seats, and are looking to make the open seats in Indiana and Arizona into Toss-Ups. Again, there are many ways to do the math to get to a GOP Senate majority, but—SURPRISE—it looks a lot harder today than it did in February. ❖

Eric Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press: In a blood-red Indiana campaign season, U.S. Senate hopeful Joe Donnelly is the anomaly — a Democratic candidate whose poll numbers show he’s remained competitive even as Republicans have taken clear leads in other races. It’s the fallout of a competitive Republican primary won by state Treasurer Richard Mourdock. And it means both Donnelly and Mourdock will be jockeying for a valuable pool of voters — independents and especially moderate Republicans — as key questions face them both. For Mourdock, the question is whether a primary season in which he positioned himself to the right of U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar has placed a permanent ceiling on the number of moderates he’ll be able to attract — even though his party has embraced him in that primary’s wake. “We didn’t have to do anything to get some of these Republicans. He offended them on his own,” said Jeffrey Pollock, the president of Global Strategy Group who is working as Donnelly’s pollster. Pollock said Hoosiers who supported Lugar did so because they saw him as reasonable and above partisan squabbling. To those voters, he said, Mourdock is “anathema.”

“He’s not consolidating Republicans because of how he’s acted — his quotes and his record,” Pollock said. For Donnelly, the question instead is whether, as he works to increase his name identification, he’ll also be able to bump his percentage of moderate Republicans up high enough to overcome the strong grass roots support Mourdock has developed on the right. “We were the only statewide campaign that truly had a competitive primary and had millions of dollars in negative TV ads run against them,” Mourdock spokesman Chris Conner said. “When we crossed into the general election, another \$1.8 million in negative ads were dumped on us by Donnelly, the Indiana Democratic Party and Super PACs supporting his efforts, most recently being Harry Reid’s PAC” — a reference to the Majority PAC ads on the air now. “With that, the Donnelly campaign still can’t push its poll numbers out of the margin of error,” Conner said. To remain competitive, Donnelly is going to have to not only make the case that he’s reasonable and Mourdock is extreme, but he’s going to have to win that battle against potentially better-funded opponents — and win it decisively. There is no road to victory for Donnelly that doesn’t include slicing off a sizable chunk of Indiana’s Republican pie. That won’t be easy, but for the state’s Democrats this year, it might be their best bet. ❖





Pence wants to boost college towns

SOUTH BEND -- A key point in Mike Pence's economic plan might bring a payoff for Indiana college towns, including this one (Allen, South Bend Tribune). The Republican gubernatorial candidate visited South Bend on Thursday, making stops at The Tribune, General Sheet Metal Works and the Pfeil Innovation Center. Pence, a six-term congressman from Columbus, believes Indiana is on the verge of historic economic growth. "Within the next five years, I think Indiana could be one of the fastest-growing state economies in the country," he said. One part of Pence's jobs plan is to create the Indiana Applied Research Enterprise -- an industry-driven institute that

would work to foster collaboration between the state's research universities, including Notre Dame, and private businesses and investors. The idea is modeled after similar entities at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Research Triangle in North Carolina, and Stanford University. "This has thrown off enormous economic energy around the Massachusetts cluster, around Stanford and in North Carolina," Pence said, "and I think it holds enormous promise for increasing investment in Indiana in ways that will create jobs in our traditional areas of strength." It also might help address the problem of young people leaving the area after they've earned a college degree. "We have people that come from all over the world to attend our colleges and universities in Indiana. I don't know what state has the infrastructure and the diversity of colleges and universities of a national and international reputation that we have," Pence said.



"But they come here, and then they go back or they go other places where that economic activity is happening."

Porter sheriff wants out of suit

HAMMOND - Porter County Sheriff Dave Lain has asked a federal judge to dismiss a challenge to Indiana's new immigration law or at least remove him from the lawsuit. County attorney Elizabeth Knight filed a motion Thursday in federal court arguing that the East Chicago-based Union Benefica Mexicana, which filed the challenge against state and region officials, lacks standing because it cannot show it has reason to expect to be arrested and subject to persecution under the state law in question. Porter County has not enforced nor threatened to enforce the law, according to the motion. Union Benefica Mexicana is challenging a state law requiring most Indiana businesses to check the immigration status of new employees, forbidding distribution of state aid to illegal immigrants and prohibiting local governments from refusing to abide by federal immigration law.

Daniels has second grandchild

INDIANAPOLIS - Two-time governor, university president -- and grandpa (again) (Indianapolis Star). Gov. Mitch Daniels gained a new member of his family Thursday afternoon, after daughter Melissa Roberts and her husband Benham welcomed their first child into the world. Cooper Roberts was born at Community North Hospital, weighed 5 pounds, 10 ounces and is 19 inches tall. The newest edition to the Daniels clan is the governor's second grandchild and first grandson. His first granddaughter, Audrey, was born Jan. 2 to his daughter and son-in-law,

Meredith and Drew Gradle.

Daniels breaks ground on bridge

JEFFERSONVILLE - Officials finally broke ground Thursday for one of two new bridges that are part of the Ohio River Bridges Project along the banks of the river in Jeffersonville, Indiana (Indiana Public Media). The over \$2 billion project will create over 4,000 jobs and relieve traffic congestion for Louisville and southern Indiana. Governor Mitch Daniels says he has never been more certain about the benefits of a project. "More safety, less congestion, better quality of life, but also more jobs and growth and opportunity on both sides of the river," he says. Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said, "I'm very happy to say, with the leadership of both governors here, that we are singing on key, in perfect harmony," he says.

Fishers city question on ballot

FISHERS - The Hamilton County Election Board agreed on Thursday to give residents of Fishers and Fall Creek Township the opportunity in November to vote on merging the two into a single city. Appearing on the Nov. 6 ballot for those residents will be the question: "Shall the Town of Fishers and Fall Creek Township reorganize as a single political subdivision?" "This is the first step in giving Fall Creek Township and Fishers residents the opportunity to determine the model of government that is most efficient and best suited for their community," Pete Peterson, a member of the Fishers Town Council, said in a prepared statement.