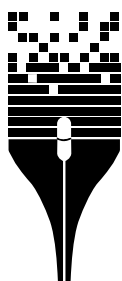


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“It almost seems like the Republicans are the uninvited guests at a dysfunctional Democratic family party...”

- Rep. Paul Mannweiler, to the Times of Northwest Indiana

O’Bannon, staff in midst of maelstrom

Governor missing political opportunity

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Through the gnashing of teeth, bitter words and rolling of eyes in an atmosphere of political pestilence, the humanity of Indiana’s leading political figures still beamed through the wreckage this week.

At least three times, Gov. Frank O’Bannon had placed calls at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis in an attempt to send a message of cheer to journalist Harrison Ullmann. The third call found a gracious governor expressing his concern about Ullmann’s lung cancer. On Jan. 27, it was Ullmann who wrote in *NUVO Newsweekly*, “Governor O’Bannon works mostly as Sen. O’Bannon worked, making the governor into a sort of senator-at-large in the legislative processes. That is good enough, much of the time, but not good enough when we need a governor who will give us a little activity in the leadership processes. It’s not enough to have a governor who wants. We also need a governor who does, which is also a governor who sometimes tells legislators that they must give the people something that they do not want to have. But that just wouldn’t be Hoosier, and Frank O’Bannon is as Hoosier as Hoosier can be.”

The criticism coming from Ullmann - the great liberal Thor throwing lightning bolts into the Indiana political process - would have sent most politicians into a venomous snit. But not Frank O’Bannon.

You could see the human touch within the House Democratic caucus on the heels of the \$200 million budget miscalculation and the governor’s vow to veto any new spending. In newspaper interviews, House Democrats were

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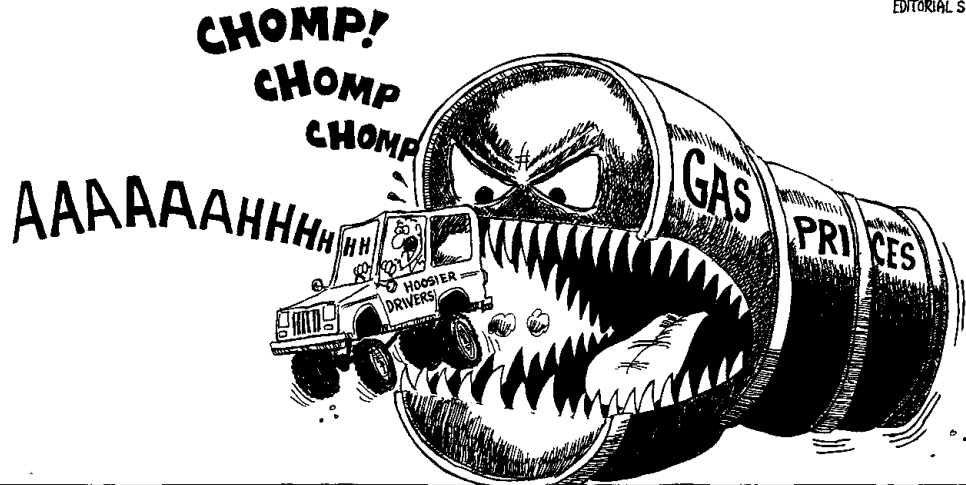
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TICKER T A P E

BUSH, GORE DOMINATE: Both Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore are well on their way to winning the top presidential nominations. Bush was asked on CNN how he fought off the attacks from Sen. John McCain. "First and foremost, I am honored that so many Republicans and Independents turned out," Bush said. "People are savvy about my campaign. Yes, it is time for us to come together. This competition has been good for me; helped me sharpen my message." As for McCain's allegations that Bush had run a "Clintonesque" campaign, Bush said, "I don't care for that kind of characterization and the people who show up to vote don't care for that. I understand politics. This campaign isn't any rougher than any of the others."

HOMEOWNERS GO TO COURT: Property tax reassessment was supposed to be Gov. O'Bannon's top priority, but it fell by the wayside. That prompted homeowners from St. John to file a motion with the Indiana Tax Court asking Judge Thomas G. Fisher to order a faster reassessment. "We're tired of screwing around with this case," said attorney Thomas Atherton (Times of Northwest Indiana). "We're asking the judge to go ahead and order

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Governor, from page 1

ticked, but somewhat diplomatic.

"It did cause a lot of disgust. It truly did," House Speaker John Gregg told the *Louisville Courier-Journal's* Craig Harris. "You could sense that. But we have sent the bills to the governor, and it's up to him to see which ones he will veto."

The *South Bend Tribune's* Susan Dillman reported, "Gregg said House Democrats also viewed the way O'Bannon's staff members had handled legislative strategy with 'disgust.'"

On the House floor, Gregg was calling O'Bannon's determination to hold-the-line of spending "leadership." But below Gregg's pronouncements, there was exceptional outrage within the Democratic ranks with a governor they will have to appear with and smile a few weeks hence at his presumed re-election announcement. Only they don't want to personally attack Frank O'Bannon, the man. Even though the governor's legislative session was an outright debacle that may very well have seriously undermined his bid for re-election, the Democrats were uncomfortable and reluctant to hang responsibility on the governor. Ever mindful of a Democratic president whose desk had a sign that read, "The buck stops here," House Democrats were lashing out at the governor's staff.

Said one House Democrat, "His staff may get over it but the caucus blames them for most of his ills. They need new staff from the top to the bottom. There is no Moreau or Delaney."

Staff problems

How did this all happen? Half of this dilemma can be shared with House Democrats. It was Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer that slipped in the \$12,500 exemption in the final minutes of the '99 session that created the \$200 million surplus shortfall (how's that for an oxymoron). But no one from the State Budget Office brought it to O'Bannon's attention until late in the legislative session. Republicans say they knew it as early as last August.

The school enrollment miscalculation is harder to understand. Some believe expert enrollment cruncher Chuck Mayfield's move from the SBO to the Legislative Service Agency is at the heart of the problem. "Forecasting enrollments is one of the easier forecasts you can make," said Bill Styring of the Hudson Institute. "It seems like that miss is awfully large." And Styring, like others, was sparing the rod with the governor and glancing at the staff. "Under those circumstances, I don't think the governor is behaving bizarrely. He seemed a little shell-shocked."

Political fallout

Where does Gov. O'Bannon stand politically after the 111th session of the Indiana General Assembly has joined the parade of nicks (trooper pay, full-day kindergarten demise, Teacher Retirement Fund transfer, Muscatatuck, Sexcise Police scandal, White River fishkill)? There is no current polling publicly available, so there is no statistical answer to that. For that reason and the lack of a Republican nominee, HPR's Horse Race still has the governor's race as "Leans O'Bannon." Barely.

But the fact is that shoddy staff work and Bauer's second consecutive year of undermining the governor's top legislative initiatives have left O'Bannon vulnerable to the Republican insurgency.

A prime example of that is the Medicaid issue. The unanimous passage of an expansion of Medicaid eligibility in the legislature and an O'Bannon signature should be one of the governor's biggest triumphs of his term. Instead, the veto threat had NUVO quoting the sister-in-law of a woman who died after being denied Medicaid: "Is he just going to let people die, or what? I wonder how he would feel if it was his sister who needed the medicine and couldn't afford it?"

On Monday Rep. David McIntosh, who Indiana Democrats say has a dismal record on Medicaid voting in Congress, was attacking the governor, saying, "This bipartisan measure is now being held captive by Gov. O'Bannon's threatened veto. The governor has turned his back on families." While Democratic Chairman Robin Winston was calling McIntosh a "hypocrite," the mere fact that McIntosh had horned in on what could have been one of O'Bannon's most altruistic moments was significant. The veto threat had one House Democrat wondering, "Imagine the veto of the Medicaid bill, then somebody dies and in July there is a big surplus. That would be a very negative ad."

When McIntosh visited the

Muscatatuck Developmental Center on Tuesday, urging the governor to move much faster on Medicaid recertification, the Democrats responded by pointing out another O'Bannon foible - the conditions that led to the closing of the New Castle Developmental Center - in the context of McIntosh ignoring a state facility in his congressional district. Said one Republican strategist, "Why would they want to draw any attention to the New Castle problem?"

Then there were weekend leads like Craig Harris wrote in the *Louisville Courier-Journal*: "For the second straight year, Gov. Frank O'Bannon spent considerable political capital on his top legislative priority but had nothing to show for his investment."

Or Susan Dillman's lead in the *South Bend Tribune*, "The General Assembly had just passed most of what he wanted and yet Gov. Frank O'Bannon was not a happy man. Instead of declaring victory for himself and fellow Democrats, he sat red-faced on the corner of his desk at midnight Friday, explaining how he very well might veto a couple of bills that increase workers compensation and unemployment insurance benefits. Why did the House Democrats box in a governor from their own party? They may not have taken him seriously."

Or this in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*: "Gov. Frank O'Bannon is just about where he started more than a year ago when the Indiana Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the state's rules for assessing property for taxation. Except now, he has little less hope."

On the political damage assessment, the questions are: Have O'Bannon's staff severely compromised his prospects for re-election by letting their boss down?

Or, will the good will of a good man be enough to keep the Republican sharks circling amidst the political chum from denying him a second term? ❖

TICKER T A P E

adoption of an implementation of a reassessment manual and to set a date certain for completion of the reassessment." State Rep. Win Moses told the Times, "I wouldn't be surprised to see the courts say, 'We're going to devise the plan.' It may be the only way this can be accomplished, and it has some merit." Speaker John Gregg said he advised Gov. O'Bannon not to continue with reassessment. "The court has forced us to do this, and I have encouraged him to let himself be sued. He should let the people of Indiana know it's the court that is forcing this very, very burdensome tax increase on homeowners. Let the court hold him in contempt."

PRO-LIFE GROUPS MERGE: Indiana Right to Life and Indiana Citizens for Life have merged. The new organization will be called Indiana Right to Life. "This is a major step forward for pro-life efforts in Indiana," said state executive director Mike Fichter. "Working together we will increase our efforts to change hearts and minds and to restore the sanctity of life." Fichter said the new organization will have representation from Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Evansville, Gary and South Bend. Newly elected officers include Mark Lantz of Greentown, Tina Bopp of Terre Haute, Jan Coleman

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of Kendallville, Bill Butterfield of Evansville and Janice Winiger of St. Phillips.

IHSAA BILL SIGNED: Gov. Frank O'Bannon has signed the accountability act for the Indiana High School Athletic Association. "I generally feel the state should not barge into the affairs of a private organization, and that includes the IHSAA," said O'Bannon. "Student athletes and their parents should not have to hire a lawyer and go to court to appeal an IHSAA decision."

JUDY O'BANNON STUMPS: First Lady Judy O'Bannon has been stumping the state encouraging people to take part in the Census 2000 project. In Bloomington, she appeared with Mayor John Fernandez and IU quarterback Antwaan Randel El. Bloomington development analyst Kerry Conway told the Herald-Times that the 1990 Census had an undercount of about 2.1 percent. IU economist Morton Marcus noted that Indiana lost its 11th Congressional seat after the 1980 Census by 8,000 people. Many analysts believe Indiana is on the bubble as to whether it will lose its 10th seat after 2000.

WHITLEY SECURITY TIGHTENED: A bomb threat has prompted Whitley County officials to have deputy sheriffs screening people

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Harrison Ullmann, *NUVO Newsweekly* - Pat Bauer is a little man - little in all statures except those that measure arrogance - and if it wasn't for the accidents of Hoosier politics, the rest of us would have neither wish nor reason to give him any notice. If Pat Bauer has any use at all in Hoosier public life, it's because he gives witness to all that's wrong in America's worst legislature. When it comes to taxes and appropriations, Indiana is governed by a man of large ego but small virtue. When Pat Bauer has something to say, the rest of us have no say at all. I was doing comedy when I first wrote that our General Assembly is the Worst Legislature in America. Now I do tragedy when I write how America's Worst Legislature sells our laws and steals our money. Our General Assembly: the only place in Indiana where someone like Pat Bauer is not a remarkably awful man. Within the company of our legislators, Pat Bauer is entirely normal. ❖

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - The good news for Hoosiers is that the Indiana General Assembly has dismissed for the year, allowing taxpayers more time to watch basketball. Unfortunately, the bad news is that it also allowed elected officials more time to campaign. The 2000 session ended sometime late Friday night or early Saturday morning - and maybe a lot earlier. It was hard to tell at points during the session if it was really an exercise in democracy or an exercise in futility. This will go down as the year the legislature did nothing about many of the things it could have and something about things many thought it shouldn't have - display the Ten Commandments. Mind you, it's not that the Ten Commandments aren't important, but even State Rep. Mike Smith quipped

at a Third House session in Rochester that he wonders how the legislature would have voted if the commandments were considered separately. A few valuable lessons were produced by this session. One was that Frank O'Bannon was in a no-win situation. Had he not sounded a warning about a projected revenue shortfall, he would have looked irresponsible. Had he committed to new spending that would have produced a revenue shortfall, he would have looked irresponsible. ❖

Brian Howey, *HPR* - The problem with the Ten Commandments debate that has taken place in the Indiana General Assembly is one of hypocrisy. That sixth commandment - "Thou shall not murder" - is one that is largely unheeded by members of the legislature, where an overwhelming majority as well as all of our current and recent governors, have advocated the use of the death penalty. As long as the State of Indiana is executing the prisoners found guilty of capital crimes, and its Court of Appeals and Supreme Court uphold these death penalties, then it seems to be a perversion of the faith to post the Ten Commandments on the lawn of the Statehouse. The other thing that bothers me about the Ten Commandment debate is that it is taking time and energy away from other issues of morality. Indiana's Medicaid standards, for instance, are the worst in the nation, and the eligibility requirements have literally cast a death sentence over hundreds of sick Hoosiers who did not qualify. While Gov. O'Bannon has said he will sign into law the Ten Commandments bill, the Medicaid eligibility requirements will probably fall by the wayside due to the recent \$200 million budget mistake. Morality, you see, has its limits at the Statehouse. ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

A messy Republican rebirth in Indianapolis with the Keeler-Combs race

News item: *Kubwa, the African elephant, gave birth to the first artificially inseminated offspring at the Indianapolis Zoo last weekend.*

News item: *Marion County Republican Chairman John Sweezy and his entire county central committee will resign to pave the way for a new generation of leaders.*



Out of the bloody elephantine placenta of the once-proud Marion County Republican Party emerges the potential rebirth of a new organization under the leadership of either John Keeler or Monty Combs.

With Sweezy's announcement that he intends to go, a party convention will take place on March 22 to select a replacement. Sweezy has endured years of under performance, ranging from Stephen Goldsmith losing the county in his 1996 gubernatorial upset, to failing to get Bill Hudnut slated for Congress, to the Mother of All Losses, Sue Anne Gilroy's 11 percent defeat to Bart Peterson in 1999. Sweezy officially sat that last election out, although his ample shadow and his controversial feud with Sheriff Jack Cottey helped create the atmosphere for a Peterson victory.

Not all of that was Sweezy's fault. But he presided over the organization for almost 30 years, and it failed to adapt to the Goldsmith-induced fratricide, the post-patronage loss of the license branch money tree, and the lack of technology that has left Republicans ill-equipped to deal with the Internet age.

Keeler is the reluctant strategist, fund-raiser and bridge-builder. When he left for a European vacation in the spring of 1997, House Republican Leader Paul Mannweiler severely misread the atmosphere, refused to sign off on the budget, which subsequently opened the door for a special session and Gov. O'Bannon's greatest legislative victory - workers compensation increases. Many believe if Keeler had been there, none of that would have happened.

The problem with Keeler is that Mayor Peterson has demanded and received a gag agreement that will keep Keeler from criticizing the mayor since his law firm represents the city - something that has inflamed a significant segment of the current precinct apparatus.

But Keeler is a healer and knows how to raise money, which is crucial, and apparently has the support of Sheriff Jack Cottey and Lawrence Mayor Tom Schneider. Keeler was seeking out people like Lesa Dietrick (a Hudnut protege who has apparently turned down the vice chair) and Joe Loftus from the Goldsmith administration.

Combs is a good organizer and knows how to raise money, and has the support of Republicans like Jackie Cissel. But he has problems, too. He presides over Washington Township Republicans and has watched steady Democrat gains in what was once an impenetrable GOP bastion, culminating with Peterson winning there in 1999.

A major factor in the Keeler-Combs showdown could be, of all things, an ideological showdown over abortion. Keeler is a pro-choice Republican who bucked his party and voted for a partial birth abortion bill. The pro-lifers appear to be rallying around Combs. Did we say this rebirth of Born Again Marion County Republicans could be messy? ❖

TICKER TAPE

who enter the facility in Columbia City (Fort Wayne News-Sentinel). The deputies are using hand-held metal detectors.

ROCKING WITH McINTOSH: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh appeared with pop music stars James Taylor and Michael McDonald. Wrote Jim Mills in Roll Call, "Taylor and McDonald are scheduled to appear at a news conference with that hip dude Rep. David McIntosh to talk about the value of music education. Had to get a kick out of the McIntosh press release which took great pains in mentioning that the congressman played the tuba back at Kendallville High School."

HOBART SPURNS ABATEMENTS: It was a major issue in the 1999 Hobart mayoral campaign. Now the City Council overwhelmingly denied a tax abatement for a 42-acre duplex development. The council and Mayor Linda Buzinec says they will limit new abatements to fill in residential lots, commercial development or special circumstances (Times of Northwest Indiana).

INCOME TAX OPPOSED: Leaders of 10 southern Lake County communities met and formed a united front against the prospect of a county income tax

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(Times of Northwest Indiana). Crown Point Mayor James Metros called the meeting in response to a recent one called by the mayors of Gary, Hammond and East Chicago. "We strongly feel that this is an example of taxation without representation on behalf of our community's taxpayers," Metros said, adding that no consensus had been reached at the meeting of mayors from Dyer, Lake Station, New Chicago, Cedar Lake, Griffith, Hobart, St. John, Lowell and Schneider.

NORTHEAST DOMINATION? The Fort Wayne News-Sentinel proclaimed that "Northeast Indiana lawmakers dominated the legislative session this year, sponsoring nearly 20 percent of the bills that advanced to the governor." Said Sen. David Long, "We focused on good things for the region. We were working hard as a team to get them through."

SAFTY DIRECTOR PROBES: Former Fort Wayne Public Safety Director Payne Brown was the target of an unofficial police investigation (News-Sentinel). At least two FWPD officers wanted Brown fired and prosecuted for tipping off potential drug suspects. Brown said he warned a prominent minister's family that police wanted to serve a warrant on

Hill sticks neck out on China trade

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Rep. Baron Hill (D-CD 9) is learning that when you stick your neck out on a controversial vote, your adversaries won't necessarily adorn a garland nor will the friends you've let down drop the guillotine.

Hill will support legislation to grant China permanent most favored nation trading status as part of its bid to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) because he believes increased trade with China will benefit Hoosier farmers. President Clinton is to deliver the China-WTO bill to Congress this week. Labor bitterly opposes the bill, citing concerns about workers' rights and environmental protection. Hill won his seat in 1998 with a big boost from labor.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has made China-WTO one of its top priorities. But it has given its endorsement in CD 9 to Hill's Republican opponent, Kevin Kellems - causing controversy in Washington. "There needs to be some separation between a candidate's record in totality and his vote on an important issue," said Bill Miller, Chamber political director. "We have a responsibility to be responsive to our chamber members and ensure that they have a voice in the political process."

Hill's vote on China-WTO won't jeopardize his relationship with labor. Hill has a strong voting record on labor issues like Social Security and the minimum wage. "We'll be solidly behind him," said Jerry Payne of the Indiana AFL-CIO.

Kellems is using the Chamber endorsement to launch a sustained attack. He is cudgeling Hill with the low ratings Hill received from business and conservative groups. He criticized Hill for voting against a marriage penalty tax bill, product liability reform, and eliminating the death tax. "It is hard to explain to a small business owner or employees of a grow-

ing small business why someone whose job is to represent them would turn his back on them when he has a chance to represent them on the House floor," Kellems said. Last summer, Hill helped lead the moderate Blue Dog Democrats in formulating a budget alternative to a \$792-billion Republican tax-cut bill. The Blue Dog plan called for \$250 million in tax cuts and focused on debt reduction. In

CONGRESS WATCH recent weeks, Hill voted for a substitute to the GOP marriage tax bill that would double the standard deduction and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit for married couples. He called the Republican bill fiscally irresponsible and a threat to Social Security and Medicare. Hill's debt reduction motif is prominent in Republican Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign. Debt reduction "resonates with small business owners," said Hill spokeswoman Angela Belden. "Baron has a really good working relationship with chambers throughout the 9th."

But Kellems calls Hill out of touch. "Baron Hill's voting record demonstrates that he has lost sight of those hard-working small business owners and employees who are the backbone of the Ninth District." In the next month, Hill, who once ran his family's insurance business, will get a chance to brandish his business credentials. The New Democrat Network will host a Washington fundraiser that will include Washington business representatives. "Baron Hill is seen by the business community here as being pro-business and pro-growth," said Simon Rosenberg, president of the network. "The Democratic strategy of eliminating the debt is more fiscally responsible than the GOP tax-cut approach." Rosenberg pointed to two groups - USA Engage and the Information Technology Industry Council - that have given Hill high ratings. ❖

Indiana 2000 Racing Form

congressional races

U.S. Senate: Republican: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. **Democrat:** David L. Johnson.

1988 results: Lugar (R) 1,430,525, Wickes (D) 668,778. **1994 results:** Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz (D) 470,799, Bourland (L) 17,343, Barton (A) 15,801. **2000 Forecast:** Want to get the Lugarites' eyes rolling? Talk about vice president or secretary of state nominations for

Indiana's senior senator. The unofficial word is, thanks, but no thanks. Of course, Lugar knows office-hoppers in Indiana haven't fared well in the past. This is a campaign clearly focused on the November election. As far as notions of a

Bayh vice presidency, that has a significant impact on David Johnson and why this race will be important even if Johnson can't close the gap on Lugar. Should Bayh ascend, it will be important for Johnson to have raised a competitive sum of money and waged a competent battle against Lugar in order to be in a position to be appointed to the Senate by Gov. O'Bannon in December. The other key player in a "Vice President Bayh" scenario would be former Secretary of State Joe Hogsett, who ran unsuccessfully against Sen. Dan Coats in 1992. Johnson would probably get the edge for having just run and his close ties to O'Bannon, although Bayh would certainly have a major say in a successor and has enjoyed a long-time friendship with Hogsett. **Status:** *Safe Lugar.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: Mike Pence, State Rep. Jeff Linder, Brad Steele, Luke Messer, Cliff Federle, David Campbell. **Democrat:** Ron Gyure, Bob Rock Jr., Troy Liggett, Angela Burks. **Independent:** Bill Fraizer. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Results:** McIntosh (R) 99,584, Boles (D) 62,426, Federle (L) 2,236. **2000 Forecast:** Linder exits the Indiana General Assembly and has eight weeks to storm the district and get back in the game. Linder won the Henry County GOP Straw Poll last Friday, topping Pence 55-24. "Winning by more than a 2 to 1 margin exceeded my expectation," Linder said. Two polls by Pence and Messer both showed Linder in third place. Linder accepts Messer's pledge to run a clean campaign. Pence begins radio ad campaign on 17 stations. At one point in the ad, Pence says, "I'll begin by leading by example. The last time I ran for office, I showed voters that I knew how to fight. This time we'll show voters that we know how to lead." That appears to be a shrewd maneuver to keep his opponents at bay for criticisms Pence took after his 1988 and 1990 campaigns against Phil Sharp. Pence ends the ad saying, "As I have consistently done throughout my public career, I will stand up for the sanctity of human life." On the Democratic side, Rock has commissioned a poll and will use results to establish the next two months strategy. **Primary Status:** *Leans Pence (R); Tossup (D).*

Congressional District 5: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Democrat:** Greg Goodnight, John Arnold, McAlister Ellis, Jr. Hugh Salisbury. **Geography:** Kokomo, Marion, Peru, Monticello, Lowell, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Buyer 108,575, Beatty 43,619, Alfred (L) 3,328. **1996 Results:** Buyer 133,604, Clark (D) 67,125, Lehman (L) 5,255. **1998 Results:** Buyer (R) 101,567, Steele 58,504 (D), Waters (L) 2,317. **2000 Forecast:** Buyer voted to repeal the Social Security earnings limit. Goodnight charged that Buyer is trying to take credit in an "election year ploy." Said Goodnight, "The passage of this bill has long been overdue. Buyer is taking credit for this legislation and promoting himself as a leader looking out for Hoosier seniors. Thursday's vote is an aberration when you look at his atrocious voting record." **Status:** *Safe Buyer.*

Congressional District 7: Republican: Brian Kerns, Bob Griffiths, Dr. Alex Gatzimos, Doug Hess, Matt Branam, Bryan Donaldson, Tony Duncan, Michael Graf, John

TICKER

T A P E

one of their sons for suspicion of drug dealing. Brown told the News-Sentinel he feared police abruptly entering the house would scare the suspect's mother into a heart attack. Brown said with the knowledge of his police chief and narcotic detectives, Brown told another of the minister's sons who is a physician to be at the home when a search warrant was served. No drugs were found, but the suspect was later convicted on drug trafficking charges. The News-Sentinel said that police towed Brown's Jeep while he was on vacation and considered hiding drugs in it.

FORT WAYNE SEEKS DC LOBBYIST: Mayor Graham Richard is considering a lobbyist based in Washington to represent the city's interests (News Sentinel). "The fact that I'm talking to people about his means that there's a good possibility it will happen," Richard said. Said U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, "I believe that it would be a step in the right direction to have a more organized plan. However, it will have no impact on what we do differently. I'm not more likely to respond to a lobbyist than the mayor."

EVANSVILLE TARGETS STOPLIGHTS: The Evansville City Council is going to ask the state to remove stoplights on the Lloyd Expressway (Evansville

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Courier & Press). The newspaper reported, "Some city officials are encouraged that Christine Klika, INDOT commissioner, is indicating that state officials are ready to listen to the highway priorities of local officials."

McINTOSH REBUKES McCAIN: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh has sent a letter to U.S. Sen. John McCain rebuking him for his comments that George W. Bush is anti-Catholic. "Your efforts to portray your opponent as being 'anti-Catholic' are below the belt and do not do justice to the concept of a fair, honorable fight," McIntosh said.

PERRON FORMS GROUP: Former Elkhart Mayor Jim Perron has formed The Perron Group, Inc., that will focus on public policy management, urban affairs innovation and regional development. It will be affiliated with Simon and Company, Inc., in Washington. Perron will also undertake joint projects with former Elkhart city attorney Paul D. Eash. Perron served as mayor of Elkhart for four terms. He can be reached at 219-522-6876. ❖

Timm. Democrat: Jeff Clapper, Sam Hillenburg. **Geography:** Terre Haute, Lafayette and Western Indiana. **1994 results:** Myers 104,359, Harmless 55,941. **1996 Results:** Pease 130,010, Hellmann (D) 72,705, Bourland (L) 7,125. **1998 Results:** Pease (R) 109,553, Hillenburg (D) 44,749. **2000 Forecast:** Griffiths has begun a heavy rotation of TV in Indianapolis, Lafayette and Terre Haute media markets. Griffiths narrates the commercial, saying, "I've lived in Indiana my whole life and the values I learned growing up of honesty, hard work, and fairness are the values I use every day with my family, my business and my community. The conservative values I believe in are the values that Washington can use more of. We need to be telling Washington what's best for us, and not the other way around." Kerns has been issuing position papers on his 10-point "Blueprint for a Better America" plan. Kerns announced he will take an "unpaid leave" from Rep. Pease's office effective March 15. On the Democratic side, Jeff Clapper announced his candidacy. His Terre Haute appearance occurred at the Vigo County offices, where he was surrounded by Democrats. **Republican Primary Status:** TOSSUP.

Congressional District 8; Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** John Hamilton, Dr. Paul Perry, John W. Taylor. **Geography:** Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Forecast:** The shakeup has occurred in the Hamilton camp. Crystal Litz, a veteran of CD campaigns in Kentucky, New Jersey and South Carolina replaces Lisa Wagner.

HORSE R A C E

Lee Hamilton will stump for his nephew for a day later this week and will host a mega-fundraiser in Evansville. Rachel Gorlin is in the district working up Hamilton's TV. And Hamilton gets Laborer and Teamster endorsements. Perry has had a \$55,000 TV buy in Evansville and will begin soon in the Terre Haute market. One commercial has Perry talking about health care under the theme, "Let's put a doctor in the house." Perry told HPR that "endorsements will be forthcoming. We feel real good about where we're at." **Democratic Primary Status:** TOSSUP.

Congressional District 9; Republican: Kevin Shaw Kellems, Michael Bailey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, Lendall B. Terry, James McClure. **Geography:** Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, Connersville, New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459 (D), Leising (R) 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton (D) 128,885, Leising (R) 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Results:** Hill (D) 92,477, Leising (R) 87,278, Feeney (L) 2,397. **2000 Forecast:** Kellems issued the following statement on Tuesday night: "Baron Hill's voting record demonstrates that he has lost sight of those hard-working small business owners and employees who are the backbone of the Ninth District. The prosperity that is required to safeguard both social security and national security will not remain if his anti-growth views become the majority opinion in Congress," Kellems said. "Hill has tried awfully hard to distract people from the truth by labeling himself as a Blue Dog Democrat. But that dog won't hunt now that voters and entrepreneurs can see the reality of his anti-business voting record." The three ratings released included, Associated Builders & Contractors: 25 percent; Business-Industry PAC: 21 percent; U.S. Chamber of Commerce: 56 percent; American Conservative Union: 16 percent The Kellems attack followed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce endorsement of Kellems. "Kevin Kellems has demonstrated through his personal advocacy for growth and prosperity in Southern Indiana that he will support those who are working hard to create good paying jobs - by advancing our cause on taxes, regulation and legal reform," said Dick Castner of the Chamber's Great Lakes office. The endorsement set off a wave of indignation in the Democratic caucus since Hill has a pro-business voting record. Kellems declared, "I am the champion of business growth." The Chamber has made the China trade vote its top legislative priority, and has promised to make members who don't support its position pay in this fall's election. Congress must grant China permanent normal trade relations in order for the country to enter the World Trade Organization (WTO). In exchange for WTO entry, China will lower trade barriers for U.S. products. *Roll Call* quotes congressional Democrats as saying that by turning its back on a pro-trade Democrat, the Chamber will encourage undecided Democrats to join labor in opposing the pact. **Status:** *Leans D.*

- Brian A. Howey ❖