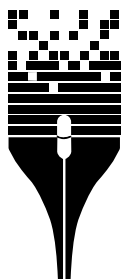


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“People would like my positive vision, but this year they’re not paying attention to it....”

- Republican gubernatorial nominee David McIntosh, to the Warsaw Times-Union.

Fat September and notions of a wave

Bush kissing Oprah a harbinger?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Call it “Fat September.”

For a brief period over the past week, we watched Vice President Al Gore’s lead over Republican George W. Bush expanding not only nationally - 49 to 41 percent - but also his Electoral College lead widened to nearly 50 votes - 244 to 199 - with some observers suggesting he was only about 30 votes short of the magic 270.

The states that had Gore “leaning” toward victory only a month ago - Illinois, Michigan - moved into the “likely” category. Tossup states such as Pennsylvania and Missouri took a decidedly Gore advantage. And states where Bush seemed to have an advantage, most notably Colorado, Oregon, Georgia and Florida, became tossups.

There were other ominous signs. CNN/*USA Today*/Gallup reported that Bush’s favorable rating had dropped from a personal best of 67 percent after the GOP convention to 61 percent after the Democratic conclave, to just 52 percent over the weekend. In the Rasmussen Portrait of America rolling three-day average, the pollster noted, “The biggest change in the dynamics of the race since the party conventions is that Al Gore is perceived much more positively than he was before the convention. Al Gore also succeeded in altering the public perception of Bush a bit.”

Could there be a Democratic wave developing?

Back in 1994, there were premonitions of the Republican tsunami dating back to the dog days of summer. But it wasn’t until Sept. 27 that year that the 185 Republican congressional candidates gathered on the Capitol steps to sign the “Contract with America” that sent vivid signals of a

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SENATE PASSES PNTR: The U.S. Senate passed the Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China on Tuesday. U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar commented on the legislation: "China is a huge market for American agricultural and industrial products. Even more importantly, for our national security, we must get the Russian and Chinese relations right. If our children are to have a peaceful future, we must help China to become a normal country that respects freedom and human rights, follows international rule of law and participates fairly in world markets. To influence China we should encourage a lot of Americans to go there, including students, religious leaders, business people, trade unionists, journalists and political leaders. Through passage of the PNTR bill, all Americans will benefit by helping to maintain economic prosperity and to promote American democratic and human rights values in China. President Clinton strongly supports the legislation and has said that he will sign it into law."

AMERITECH PROMISES TO DO BETTER: Ameritech's Indiana chief, George Fleetwood, joined a growing number of CEOs who have had to go on TV and apologize for the dismal performances of their companies

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Wave, from page 1

developing and historic wave. It wasn't until the final days of the 1998 campaign that it became clear that Democrats were going to making stunning gains in the final Clintonian mid-term elections as impeachment swirled in the air. And it wasn't until the final weekend of the 1980 campaign that Ronald Reagan broke out of a dead heat with President Carter to stake out an epic landslide.

Most of the top observers don't believe there is a wave. Stuart Rothenberg wrote in the *Rothenberg Political Report* published on Sept. 14, "At this point, we expect Democratic gains to fall in the four to eight seat range. Anything less than a Democratic gain of two seats or more than a Democratic gain of a dozen seats would be surprising. We currently don't expect the presidential contest to have a major impact on the fight for the House. But that could change if one of the parties becomes demoralized in the fight for the White House."

Chris Mehl, a top aide to U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer, agreed. "It's a good year to be an incumbent. People are going to vote their pocketbooks."

Thus, Fat September.

Republicans both nationally and here in Indiana were fretting about a Bush flame-out that had the possibility of shaking the party's chances to the core. Both Rothenberg and Charlie Cook of the *Cook Political Report* noted a distinct "pessimism" and "disillusionment" with GOP operatives around the country - even though both estimate that Gore's lead is really between 3 and 8 percent.

But Brad Tracy of the Indiana House Republican caucus told HPR earlier this week, "We are sticking to plan. We are excited and believe that Bush has found his low mark and is starting to rebound."

That was before Bush walked on the stage of the *Oprah Winfrey Show* on Tuesday, planted an affectionate kiss on her cheek and participated in a charming interview that was witnessed by millions of females across the nation. It's too early to tell what the impact is going to be (Gore has close to a 20-point lead over Bush with female votes, a virtual flip-flop between the two from early summer), but most observers thought it would help Bush smooth over a gaping gender gap. "I'll remind you that George Bush kissed

Howey Political Report 2000 Pre-Election Briefing Series coming to Indianapolis, South Bend

The Howey Political Report



The second annual HPR Pre-Election Briefing Series will take place on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2 in Indianapolis and South Bend. The briefings will feature statewide polling and analysis by HPR's Brian Howey and Mark Schoeff Jr., TeleResearch Pollster Jeff Lewis, Ron Gifford of Baker & Daniels, Stuart Rothenberg of the *Rothenberg Political Report* and Jack Colwell of the *South Bend Tribune*. Join us for lunch and analysis of the fascinating 2000 election. Here are the details:

Indianapolis: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1 at the Columbia Club. Sponsors include Baker & Daniels, DLZ, Vectren and National Graphics. Cost: \$20.

South Bend: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Holiday Inn in downtown South Bend. Sponsors include Baker & Daniels, DLZ, the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce. Cost: \$15.

To register, call 317-254-0535 or 317-254-1533 or e-mail us at: brianhowey@earthlink.net.



VECTREN



Oprah Winfrey and Al Gore did not," said Ken Rudin of National Public Radio on CNN Wednesday. "When Gore kissed his wife at the convention, his numbers shot through the roof."

Rudin also noted that Gore is repeating the "frontrunner" mistake Bush had made during the convention sequence - going on the defensive.

Absolutely critical for Bush to regain and/or solidify his momentum and re-energize his ground troops will be the three debates in Boston on Oct. 3, Winston-Salem in Oct. 11, and Oct. 17 in St. Louis.

Here in Indiana, David McIntosh

has gone on the offensive - citing "mismanagement" by the O'Bannon administration. A *South Bend Tribune* poll showing O'Bannon's lead at 15 percent may be the first indicator of traction. The McIntosh goal will be to shave off 3 or 4 points a week from the O'Bannon lead.

O'Bannon will hit back beginning Thursday, citing Moody's Investor Service and its Aa1 bond rating, due to "the state's low debt levels and history of effective budgetary management," said Thad Nation of the O'Bannon campaign. "We can go toe to toe with him if he wants to go down this path." ❖

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and promise to do better. Fleetwood spoke on a video released by Ameritech on Monday, saying that the company would bring in 300 technicians from surrounding states to take care of a huge backlog of orders. Fleetwood did not avail himself for questions from the media. He followed a trend where the CEOs of Ford, Firestone/Bridgestone and United Airlines have had to go on camera and acknowledge the terrible service and/or performances their companies perpetrated on consumers. Complaints about Ameritech service in Indiana rose to 295 in August from 95 in July. The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday that other units of Ameritech have also been swamped with complaints about service, specifically citing the company's Ohio unit.

BROADCAST CONTENT CRITICIZED: Fourth CD Democrat candidate Mike Foster said Sunday he believes vulgar words that refer to body parts or are put-downs of women should be banned from radio and TV (Sylvia A. Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Under his plan, Congress would authorize hundreds of panels across the country to determine what language should be off-limits for their communities and broadcast executives would be responsible

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for banning or bleeping the words. He said he believes the same approach should be applied to the visual content of TV because too much skin is exposed. Foster's opponent is incumbent Mark Souder.

CARTER TARGETS DRUNKEN DRIVING: Republican AG candidate Steve Carter has released a package of initiatives to combat drunken driving. It includes mandatory jail time and a law penalizing drunken drivers with children in their vehicles (Ken de la Bastide, *Anderson Herald Bulletin*). The proposed law would be non-suspendable with punishment of up to three years in jail. He also is proposing that three days of a misdemeanor conviction for drunken driving must be served in jail if the BAC is over .15. The driver also would be subject to a mandatory license suspension of 180 days and would not be eligible for a probationary license. Carter's opponent is Democrat Karen Freeman-Wilson.

COUNTIES SET LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: The Indiana Association of County Commissioners and the Association of Indiana Counties plan to seek a more stable source of state road funding when the General Assembly convenes in January (Bob Kasarda, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). Road funding cur-

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Post might beckon Bayh

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Sen. Evan Bayh (D) won't be vice president in the next administration, but he might find a national platform for his ideas. Bayh is one of the leading candidates to become the next chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), according to a recent report published in *Roll Call*, the Capitol newspaper.

Speculation is premature. The current DLC chairman, Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), would not necessarily have to relinquish his post if he and Vice President Al Gore are elected in November. Lieberman has served for five years as head of the centrist Democratic organization.

Established in 1985, the DLC has been led by a host of Democratic luminaries, including then-Gov. Bill Clinton, Sen. John Breaux (D-La.), Sen. Charles Robb, and former Rep. Dave McCurdy (D-Okla.). The DLC chairman primarily provides thematic direction. He is not responsible for fundraising or day-to-day operations. It is also affiliated with a think tank, the Progressive Policy Institute.

"I'm here because I want to implement ideas that will make more opportunity for the citizens of Indiana and the rest of our country," said Bayh. "The DLC has been a major source of those ideas. They're consistent with my centrist philosophy on economic and fiscal matters and progressive social policy."

Bayh announced his support of legislation to grant China permanent normal trade relations at a DLC event on Capitol Hill in June. He participated in several DLC events at the Democratic convention in Los Angeles. He is a founding member of the Senate New Democrat Coalition.

"We consider Evan Bayh an important voice for the future of Democratic politics," said DLC spokesman Matt

Frankel. But he said that only Lieberman could end Lieberman's term as chairman. "We consider him our chairman now. We don't have any specific plans to change that." When the DLC board selects a chairman, it looks for "someone who is a national leader and reflects the circumstances of the times." But some anonymous sources in the *Roll Call* article groused that Bayh would use the DLC as a launching pad for his presidential ambitions in 2004 or 2008.

Split on taxes

Like any coalition on Capitol Hill, New Democrats don't vote in lock step. Over the last several weeks, Reps. Tim Roemer (3rd CD) and Baron Hill (9th CD) split on tax issues. Roemer voted in favor of overriding presidential vetoes of a bill to eliminate the estate tax and legislation to reduce the marriage penalty tax by \$292 billion over 10 years. Hill voted against the override, saying the measures cost too much. He backed alternative bills.

Roemer and Hill both put a priority on targeted tax cuts and paying down the \$3.2 trillion national debt, but sometimes diverge on the emphasis.

"In some ways, I think it's a false choice," said Bayh. "Both are consistent with the New Democrat philosophy. It's a question of what combination of the two that occasionally people will have some difference on."

Hill has hewed to debt reduction since arriving on Capitol Hill two years ago to replace longtime Rep. Lee Hamilton. He has been joined by his congressional counterparts. Republican Sen. John McCain made debt amelioration central to his presidential campaign. This week House Republicans pushed through a bill that would force Congress to use \$240 billion of the projected \$268 billion surplus in 2001 to reduce the debt. "The most important thing you can do is pay down the debt," said Hill. "I have voted for mar-

riage penalty and estate tax reduction. The question in my mind has always been: How far do you go with this?"

New Democrat candidates

Hill has proselytized about debt reduction to 2nd CD Democratic candidate Robert Rock Jr. Hill introduced Rock to some of his Blue Dog Democrat colleagues when Rock came to Washington in July. The Blue Dogs are another group of moderate Democrats. In an interview with HPR at that time, Rock emphasized reducing the debt as the centerpiece of his fiscal agenda.

But the Rock campaign isn't hung up on labels. "What is a New Democrat?" asked Mary Jo Rock, her son's campaign manager, in an interview following the Democratic convention.

Paul Perry, the orthopedic surgeon running against incumbent GOP Rep. John Hostettler in the 8th CD, also questioned the term New Democrat. "I'm not sure what that means. If it means we're going to get things done for health care, then count me in. I hope we're posturing from the position of common sense."

Bayh said all New Democrats believe in economic growth, fiscal and personal responsibility. "A growing economy is the bedrock upon which opportunity must be built in our society." He advocates "taking the fruits of economic growth and the benefits of fiscal responsibility to ensure opportunities for all Americans."

Trade temperature

That topic was evident in Bayh's stance on PNTR for China, a bill fiercely opposed by labor because of China's low wage rate and poor record on worker rights. Bayh waited until after the House, in a controversial and precarious vote, approved PNTR before announcing his position. When he did make his statement, he also outlined an agenda to help those left behind in the global economy, calling for training, job placement, health care

assistance, and pension reform.

Roemer and Hill came out much earlier and much stronger for PNTR. Both made their positions public last winter. Roemer, the co-chairman of the House New Democrat Coalition, helped lead the lobbying effort that resulted in House approval of the bill, 237-197. The Senate approved PNTR on Tuesday, 83-15.

Hill mentions trade in his definition of a New Democrat. "Fiscal responsibility and developing new markets is our trademark," he said. "I'm a free trader. We live in a global economy. We need to open borders all over the world. I'll consistently be in favor of free and open markets as long as it's fair." If foreign countries break trade rules, the United States should be allowed to retaliate, he said. Rock, on the other hand, is more circumspect about trade issues. He has indicated he would have voted against PNTR because of its potential detrimental impact on labor.

There is no schism on trade, Bayh said. New Democrats believe "in the function of markets as opposed to government control and protectionism."

Of course, there also are a healthy number of Old Democrats in Congress, who are not defined by their age, but rather their more liberal approach on most issues. Rep. Julia Carson (D-10th CD) said that the two sides of the left side of the aisle are coming together.

"The Old Democrats are moving up in line with the New Democrats," she said. "You go forward in the new millennium and work on new agendas. Just because you change automobiles doesn't mean the old one was no good. You just want to get something more fashionable."

But unlike Roemer, she's not driving the tax-cut model. "I'm not in favor of targeted tax cuts until we look at the whole economy," she said. "I don't think you can do anything budgetary wise in a vacuum." She said the projected \$2 trillion surplus may not materialize. "We don't know what's going to happen. We can't throw away (our) savings account; that's irresponsible." ❖

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rently is authorized for two-year periods and county highway departments find it difficult to budget for road work before they know what funds will be available. Other top legislative goals include securing a level of local control over the implementation of new taxes and fees, a greater local return on the funds generated by court costs, a continued reduction in the reliance on property taxes for welfare programs, and the elimination of a delay in the start of terms for some elected county offices.

PRESIDENTIAL TRACKING: In the CNN/USA Today/Gallup three-day tracking (Sept. 16-19, +/- 4 percent), Democrat Al Gore leads Republican George W. Bush 49 to 43 percent. CNN reported, "For the first time in this campaign, more voters believe that Al Gore will win the election: 54 percent now think Gore will win in November, up from 34 percent in late August. And Gore's favorable rating, which rose to a new high of 61 percent after the Democratic convention, has maintained at that level since then. Bush's favorable rating, however, has dropped from a personal best of 67 percent after the GOP convention to 61 percent after the Democratic conclave, to just 52 percent today." In the Rasmussen Portrait of America rolling three-day

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average, Bush leads Gore 43.2 to 42.2. Rasmussen made a similar observation about Gore: "The biggest change in the dynamics of the race since the party conventions is that Al Gore is perceived much more positively than he was before the convention. Al Gore also succeeded in altering the public perception of George W. Bush a bit. The GOP contender is now seen as 'slightly more conservative' than he was before the conventions."

GRANNY D COMING TO INDY: Doris "Granny D" Haddock will be in Indianapolis on Saturday to speak at the Common Cause/Indiana 30th anniversary celebration. Granny D, 89, walked across the United States this past year in support of campaign finance reform. She will appear at 6 p.m. Saturday at Ramada Inn South, 4514 S. Emerson. For tickets, call 317-767-0209.

IDEM CRITICIZED : A report by a Washington-based environmental group ranks Indiana second in the nation for the number of alleged high priority Clean Air Act violators not inspected in fiscal year 1998-99 (Lauri Harvey, Times of Northwest Indiana). The study, "Prime Suspects: The Law-Breaking Polluters America Fails to Inspect," was released in July by the Environmental

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Kyle Hannon, *Elkhart Truth* - After this past week, perhaps our leaders should re-think plans to make college accessible to more people. Our campuses were not exactly impressive temples of higher learning. Instead, they were shameful gathering spots for hooligans. The most obvious example was, of course, the reaction to Indiana University's ousting of time-bomb coach Bobby Knight. Across the state many adults were stunned to learn that IU is actually a university, not a semi-pro basketball team. It is a place that has interests and powers superceding those of a basketball coach. Surprisingly, students attending the Bloomington campus seemed equally shocked to learn their beloved coach was replaceable. A large number of them took a break from rigorous studying to express their dismay in a manner befitting a modern university education. They broke things. When I saw the newspaper photo of workers repairing a fountain damaged in the protests, it occurred to me that as a taxpayer I own that fountain. Dumb kids. Go break your own fountain. But technically, as a taxpayer, I oversee the group that fired Knight. So maybe I was an indirect target of their rage. It could have been worse. At least I wasn't burned in effigy. That was the fate of IU president Myles Brand. Students also hanged an effigy of the teenager whose greeting to Knight finally pushed the coach over the edge. Isn't hanging and burning stuffed dummies an activity usually reserved for ranting protesters in the Middle East? ❖

Al Hunt, *Wall Street Journal* - Democrats appear to have a small lead in a slight majority of this year's 11 gubernatorial contests. The biggest disappointment to date for the GOP is Indiana, where the

42-year-old GOP challenger, Rep. David McIntosh, was considered a conservative future star. But Gov. Frank O'Bannon has proven a wily incumbent, undercutting Mr. McIntosh's lower-taxes crusade by suspending the state's gasoline tax amid rising energy prices. Both parties agree Gov. O'Bannon has a double-digit lead today. The McIntosh forces hope a big Bush win in Republican Indiana could pull them through, but it's an uphill battle. ❖

Stuart Rothenberg, *Roll Call* - Republicans acknowledge that McIntosh is trailing in the race and has yet to consolidate the support of GOP voters. However, they note that Texas Gov. George W. Bush (R) will carry the state and that Sen. Dick Lugar (R) will win a landslide re-election victory. They are also convinced that McIntosh will benefit from the top of the ticket in the generally Republican state. McIntosh shows no sign of throwing in the towel, and he has raised a credible \$7 million. In a recent fundraising letter, McIntosh argued that his current position is similar to his standing at this point in 1994. He notes that he went on to win then, and he plans to win this year too. But 1994 was one of the best Republican years in recent history, and McIntosh has to know that the political landscape in Indiana now is nothing like it was six years ago. "Sometimes electorates want to listen [to challengers]. Sometimes they don't. This year, they don't," says O'Bannon pollster Fred Yang confidently.

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Indiana 2000 Racing Form

TRENDLINES: House Democrats are beginning their TV/radio ad campaigns earlier than normal this year. Usually, they follow the Republicans.

GOVERNOR, congressional races

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **Libertarian:** Andrew Horning. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** On the eve of the first gubernatorial debate (Friday in Indianapolis) a *South Bend Tribune* poll conducted by Research 2000 (604 likely voters, +/-4 percent) has O'Bannon leading McIntosh 48 to 33 percent. The survey came just as McIntosh began his aggressive ad campaign citing "mismanagement" by the O'Bannon administration.

O'Bannon's campaign said the ads are misleading and false and pledged responses by the end of the week (Shannon Lohrmann, *Fort Wayne News Sentinel*). McIntosh's ad questioning care for the elderly in nursing homes cites nearly 100 complaints that were ignored for more than a year. The personal property tax exemption underestimated by millions of dollars also is mentioned. O'Bannon campaign manager Tom New called the ad a "scare tactic." McIntosh campaign spokesman Rob Collins said, "It's the truth." The debates are critical for McIntosh - who has a reputation going back to Yale and the University of Chicago as a masterful debater. His problem is that with the Olympics underway, few people will be watching. Rep. Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale, said last Monday that property taxes between now and 2003 could increase by as much as 56 percent, but State Tax Board Chairman Timothy Brooks disputed some of Espich's findings (Niki Kelly, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Economists have predicted property tax changes would lead to increases of about 32 percent. Espich claims new data push that number to 38 or 39 percent and two other factors - the planned reduction of the homestead credit from 10 to 4 percent, plus typical tax rate increases averaging 11 percent - push the increase to 56 percent. That would mean a typical tax bill of \$1,400 would balloon to \$1,723. Brooks disputed the homestead credit figure, saying Gov. O'Bannon plans to keep it at 10 percent. He also took issue with averaging rate increases over the last 10 years because the last two to three years have shown a downward trend. **General Status: LIKELY O'BANNON.**

Congressional District 2: Republican: Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Robert Rock Jr. **Independent:** Bill Frazier. **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:** Pence began his fall radio ad campaign on Monday on 22 radio stations and every cable TV system in the district. Pence is facing Democrat Robert Rock and independent Bill Frazier, who is already running TV ads. Pence will have House Speaker Dennis Hastert stump for him in Columbus on Sept. 25, Dan Quayle in Shelbyville on Oct. 12 and Tom DeLay in Muncie on Oct. 18. Rock never seems to have gotten traction to date. Even Democrats are telling HPR that Rock "needs a couple of things to break for him" in order to get a chance. **Status: Likely Pence.**

Congressional District 3: Republican: Chris Chocoma. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer. **Geography:** South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Roemer 72,497, Burkett 58,787. **1996 Results:** Roemer 114,381, Zakas (R) 80,748, Taylor (L) 2,331. **1998 Results:** Roemer 84,625, Holtz 61,041. **2000 Forecast:** Roemer said Monday that he spoke with President Clinton by telephone last Dec. 7 less than two weeks before the House impeached the president and warned him that impeachment was likely (Sylvia A.

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Working Group, a non-profit organization funded by national foundations. Lori Kaplan, IDEM's commissioner, wrote to the organization's president in August that the group used "archaic and often inaccurate national EPA databases." The EPA conducted an internal review and found that the Environmental Working Group properly used the federal data.

WATERMELON CRISIS: U.S. Sens. Dick Lugar and Evan Bayh announced they have requested that emergency funding be included in the agricultural appropriations bill to assist Indiana watermelon growers impacted by mature watermelon decline disease for which no cause has been determined, nor a cure identified. "As State Sen. John Waterman and others have noted, this is a hard hit for the hundreds of Indiana farmers who have lost 60 to 90 percent of their watermelon crop. We are hopeful that the Congress will support our request that assistance be made available for these Indiana producers," said Lugar, chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. "This unexpected crop disease means a potential economic loss of as much as five million dollars to Indiana's economy," said Bayh. "I will continue to work with Senator Lugar to see that watermelon farmers

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in southern Indiana receive the support of Congress as they try to cope with a devastating outbreak that has all but obliterated this year's watermelon crop."

BAILEY SHOPS POLL: Michael Bailey's 9th CD campaign released a Corydon McCullough Poll that showed him trailing U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, 38 to 36 percent. His campaign released the questions of the poll, which didn't appear to contain push questions. Bailey says he can't seem to get any traction. "I'm beginning to feel like the Rodney Dangerfield of Indiana politics," he told HPR. Bailey said the poll revealed that half of the district's Republican voters are either undecided or will vote for Hill. "That tells me I've got to win back my own party." Bailey said Corydon McCullough has done polling for House Speaker Dennis Hastert. Hill, meanwhile, told HPR that he is "beginning to mend our fences. We had our differences on trade. On most issues, I'll be with them." Hill was endorsed by the Teamsters on Tuesday and the IUE in Connersville. On his campaign, Hill said, "I feel confident, but not over confident. On Al Gore, Hill added, "All Gore is doing a lot better in the 9th District. People feel like he has the leadership skills now."



Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "Get over it," Roemer told Clinton, "You're 10 days away from a vote. This is not about you being a victim. You made mistakes - you have to understand that. It's not just a conspiracy out to get you." The conversation is revealed in *"The Breach: Inside the Impeachment and Trial of William Jefferson Clinton"* by Washington Post reporter Peter Baker. Chocola is running a TV ad that shows a WSBT-TV news clip of Roemer saying, "A budget resolution is a vote on something that is like voting on National Sheep Appreciation Week." The *Tribune's* Jack Colwell noted, "Roemer, smiling sheepishly after his remark, looks kind of goofy as a voice cuts in to say: What? Roemer says his vote to raise our taxes doesn't matter. Hey Tim, it does matter. You've been in Washington too long." Chocola has accused Roemer of voting for a tax increase, but in reality he voted for a budget resolution in 1993, but voted against the actual bill. Roemer aide Chris Mehl believes his boss is in good shape. "It's a good year to be an incumbent. We're not seeing Chocola reaching out beyond his base at all; he hasn't connected with the Reagan Democrats, the soccer moms or the Catholics." That is astute analysis. But if GWBush rebounds, watch this race. **Status:** *Leans Roemer.*

Congressional District 5: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Democrat:** Greg Goodnight. **Libertarian:** Scott Benson. **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:** Republican Rep. Steve Buyer and Democrat Greg Goodnight continue to accuse each other of negative campaigning, poor representation and failing to stick to the issues (Dan McCaleb, *Kokomo Tribune*). Goodnight claimed again that Buyer is ducking debates with him and released a scorecard by a national lobbying group for the elderly that gives Buyer poor grades on those issues. **Status:** *Likely Buyer.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Dr. Paul Perry. **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:** An Evansville HMO has announced that 8,000 patients will have to find new doctors. GW Bush's prescription drug plan also helps his campaign, Perry told HPR, because Hostettler doesn't have one. "We keep getting help on the issues," Perry said. **Status:** *Tossup.*

INDIANA HOUSE races

House District 19: Republican: Ron Johnson. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Kuzman. **Geography:** Crown Point, south Lake County. **1994 results:** Conlon (R) 8,850, McCall (D) 5,280. **1996 Results:** Kuzman (D) 12,236, Sparks (R) 10,453. **1998 Results:** Kuzman 9,130, Gasparovic (R) 6,917. **2000 Forecast:** Johnson gets the Right to Life endorsement, which went to Kuzman in '98. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 24: Republican: Rep. Rick McClain. **Democrat:** Bob Sabatini. **Geography:** Logansport, Cass, Carroll, Miami counties. **1994 results:** McClain 10,421, Frantz (D) 7,686. **1996 Results:** McClain 15,538. **1998 Results:** McClain 10,281, Fincher (D) 7,345. **2000 Forecast:** Sabatini is on radio and starts his \$27,000 Lafayette TV campaign on Oct. 6. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 57: Republican: Mike Herndon. **Democrat:** J.D. Lux. **Geography:** Shelbyville, Shelby, Bartholomew and Rush counties. **1994 Results:** Linder (R) 12,626. **1996 Results:** Linder 13,730, Thayer (D) 6,704. **1998 Results:** Linder 12,741. **2000 Forecast:** Lux gets the Shelby Lodge FOP endorsement. Democrats say Lux, O'Bannon lead in the district. About 250 people attended a Lux fundraiser and gave \$5,000 in a "pass the hat" gesture. Lux has raised more than \$60,000. Judy O'Bannon stumped for Lux on Monday. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 68: Republican: Jean Leising. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Bischoff. **Geography:** Lawrenceburg. **1994 results:** Bischoff 9,427, Ketcham (R) 8,993. **1996 Results:** Bischoff (D) 12,088, Fehrman (R) 8,968. **1998 Results:** Bischoff 11,881, Kristoff (L) 1,742. **2000 Forecast:** Bischoff has begun advertising on Cincinnati radio. Dearborn County Farm Bureau endorsed Bischoff. **Status:** *Tossup.*