

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“It is my belief that this will lead to more bipartisanship and a more centrist agenda. It will no longer be tilted to the right”

- U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, reacting to Sen. James Jeffords' switch to the Democrats, to CNN

McDaniel confident he has enough votes

Rep. Behning challenges GOP chair

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

After Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel decided to delay Congressional district chair elections normally scheduled for early March, rumors circulated that he could expect a challenge from the right with Vigo County's David Lohr stirring the pot.

Last Saturday night as U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert addressed 900 Republicans, a new challenger surfaced - State Rep. Robert Behning, an Indianapolis florist whose most conspicuous spotlight claims were to push one-class high school basketball in the legislature and woo David McIntosh into the 2000 gubernatorial race. McDaniel had a brief and frosty conversation with Behning at the dinner about replacing Anne Hathaway, who was leaving the GOP House caucus. By Sunday morning, the coup attempt was on, with Behning e-mailing out a plan that called for changes in the state central committee.

“**We need better backroom** functions and a more succinct vision. My problem is not with Mike McDaniel,” Behning said when the *HPR Daily Wire* broke the story on Tuesday. “My true goal is to change the direction of the state committee.” Behning said the Indiana Republican Party has fallen significantly behind in the maintenance of voter lists, communications, technology and outreach. “The state committee needs to be in control, but some of these services can be contracted out,” Behning explained.

In surveying Hoosier Republicans from across the state, *HPR* believes that Behning's challenge will come up short when CD chairs are elected May 29 and the state chair on May 31. In doing so, Behning has violated one of the

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HOUSE RETIREMENT WATCH LIST: Three members of the Indiana House - Republicans Brent Steele and Bruce Munson and Democrat Clair Leuck - have already announced retirements. Twenty others are on now on the HPR Watch List: For health and age reasons (now that a great healthcare plan for legislative retirees has passed), the list includes Republicans Dean Mock and Richard Mangus, and Democrats Ben GiaQuinta, Dick Bodiker, Mae Dickinson and Vern Tincher; for running for higher office, Mike Dvorak (St. Joseph County prosecutor), Gary Dillon (SD17), Sue Crosby (8th CD), Jonathon Weinzapfel (8th CD), Dale Grubb (8th CD), Russ Stilwell (8th CD), Dave Crooks (8th CD); for a variety of other reasons, Mary Kay Budak, Dale Sturtz, Sheila Klinker, Gloria Goeglein, Pat Bauer, Sue Scholer; for leaving leadership and growing a beard, Paul Mannweiler.

BAYH COMMENTS ON JEFFORDS: U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, speaking on CNN's Inside Politics on Wednesday afternoon, said the power shift in the Senate will occur "in a matter of days" after Sen. James Jeffords' switch to the Democratic Party. "The committee ratios will change, the flow of legisla-

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McDaniel, from page 1

critical rules of party politics - make sure you have the votes in a coup before you surface. Many Republicans HPR contacted Tuesday had either not heard from Behning, or had just heard from him.

Behning told HPR he had "between 10 and 12 votes," but our count indicates McDaniel should easily get the 10 votes needed to win. "I'm pretty confident I've got the votes," McDaniel said Wednesday afternoon. "The stuff he says we need to be doing we're already doing."

McDaniel had former Chairman Rex Early contact eight voters who had yet to make an ironclad commitment and Early reported that all eight would back McDaniel. Early also endorsed McDaniel on WISH-TV Tuesday night.

While most believe McDaniel will be returned, a number of prominent Republicans HPR has spoken with on background say there is a significant air of discontent stemming from the simple fact that the party hasn't much to show for the last decade in big victories other than the 1994 tsunami. "Outside of the state committee, nobody's particularly happy," said one former officeholder. "They view the

State Committee as in a mode to vote for self-preservation."

Some are still concerned about the party lists. One county chairman told HPR that state committee-supplied "wagon lists" had precinct committeement howling with discontent last fall. However, the Lugar campaign worked diligently throughout 2000 to upgrade its lists and reliable sources say that information was merged into the state GOP operations.

And others are concerned about the state party's major donor program that has been what one financier called "lethargic." Another party activist added, "HRCC had plenty of money. McIntosh had plenty of money. Why doesn't the state committee?"

Both Behning and McDaniel acknowledged the work of the coming "Phoenix Group" led by prominent GOP financiers such as Jim Kittle, Bob Grand and Randall Tobias. Behning said he had spoken with Kittle twice, and McDaniel said, "I've been meeting with him for weeks. He's made it very clear he's working with me." The Phoenix Group is officially not taking sides.

HPR Forecast: McDaniel returns after foiling the coup. ❖

Jeffords' switch won't change Lugar's role much

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar has spent 24-plus years in the Senate, 12 in the majority and 12 in the minority; 12 under Republican presidents, 12 under Democrats; and close to five months in a 50/50 Senate where the Republicans had the tie-breaking vote in Vice President Dick Cheney; perhaps the rest of the year with U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, D-Vt., having the tie-breaker.

Jeffords' anticipated Thursday decision to switch from the GOP to an independent who votes with the Democrats will put Lugar back in the minority and cost him his Senate Agriculture Committee chairmanship now, and possibly the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chair after the 2002 elections.

"Never has one man's switch meant so much," observed CNN's Jonathon Karl, who quoted Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle as saying the transfer of power from Republicans to Democrats will happen "immediately" after Jeffords' switch.

But the Lugar Senate office was taking the defection pretty much in stride Wednesday as the Capitol buzzed.

As far as agriculture policy goes, senators tend to vote along regional and not party lines. The new Agriculture Committee chairman - populist liberal Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa - will have similar corn belt interests as the conservative Lugar. "It's just a committee that defies party lines," said Lugar spokesman Andy Fisher. "It matters a little bit in agenda and timetables when bills are moved, but in terms of internal operations, bills usually come out of committee with some sort of wide majority."

Two issues near and dear to Lugar's heart - biofuels and the farm bill - are either wrapped up or well under way. The biofuels bill passed in 2000 and is funded at \$49 million a year for six years. It was embraced by President Bush.

The new agriculture bill that will

tweak the historic Freedom to Farm Act of 1996 is proceeding, section by section, with the actual mark-up coming this summer and completion in 2001. Lugar and Harkin have enjoyed a largely harmonious relationship. "All their press releases have been joint releases," Fisher said. "Both senators have agreed on who witnesses should be. I don't think one vote will change or affect the outcome of the farm bill."

A far greater political impact will occur not on the Ag Committee, but with the switch of Sen. Patrick

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Leahy taking over the Judiciary. There Democrats are preparing to retaliate against Bush federal and Supreme Court judge nominees, after the Republicans retaliated against President Clinton nominees in a payback for the Robert Bork Supreme Court defeat in the 1980s.

As for the long-term status of Lugar's Ag Committee chair, due to six-year chairman term limits, he and Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms would have had to give up their prime positions after 2002 anyway.

Lugar acknowledged in his 2000 re-election campaign that he wanted to head Foreign Relations again, after a two-year stint in 1985-86 when he supported sanctions against South Africa and decisively determined that Ferdinand Marcos' victory over Corazon Aquino was fraudulent, ultimately forcing the Philippine dictator from power. He lost that chair in 1986, the last time Republicans lost control of the Senate.

"He certainly enjoyed those two years," Fisher said. Perhaps Lugar will return to the Foreign Policy chair at some point if the GOP regains the Senate in 2002 or 2004, or after the senator's potential re-election in 2006. ❖

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tion will change," Bayh said, adding that President Bush will have to come to the center, "sit down and compromise."

JEFFORDS CREATES BAYH OPENING: Just as the tax cut bill was being approved by the Senate, the upper house was roiled by news that Sen. James Jeffords of Vermont would announce that he is leaving the Republican Party to become an independent. The potential new politics of the Senate could create an opening for Bayh, Bernadette Budde, senior vice president of the Business Industrial Political Action Committee, said. Bayh and other senators who are former governors-- Sens. Zell Miller (D-Ga.), Ben Nelson (D-Neb.), and Tom Carper (D-De.) - might be able to work with President Bush, who came to the White House from the Texas state house. "The former governors have an opportunity in the Bush administration to be the core around which a centrist agenda can be developed, especially if Jeffords defects," said Budde.

HASTERT DRAWS 900: U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert spoke to 900 Indiana Republicans at its state dinner last Saturday. But other than WIBC's Eric Berman, none of the Indiana

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news media covered the speech. Chairman Mike McDaniel said Hastert actually discouraged media attendance for fear of getting caught between the 4th CD feud between U.S. Reps. Steve Buyer and Brian Kerns. The Democrats' Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner featuring U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky Friday night failed to draw any press coverage.

VISCLOSKY DESCRIBES DEMOCRATIC VALUES, MIGRATION: Rep. Visclosky gave the keynote address to Indiana Democrats last Friday. "You work hard every day, you make sure your children have the best education possible, and you use every talent that God gave you to better the lives of others," Visclosky said, adding that it was these values "that led our families to seek a better life in Indiana." He cited Hurley Goodall's ancestors who escaped from slavery in Virginia and settled in Jay County in the 1860s; the Visclosky family's immigration from Slovakia in the 1890s to Pennsylvania, Minnesota and finally Indiana. And in the 1950s, Lettice Otero's family settling in Indiana from Puerto Rico. Otero is now chief council for the Indiana Department of Revenue. "These individuals all came to Indiana because they embody the values of the Indiana Democratic Party,

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Bayh doesn't pull tax cut trigger

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON - In the end, Sen. Evan Bayh didn't pull the trigger on a \$1.35 trillion, 11-year tax cut package passed Wednesday by the Senate.

The lead sentence of a post-vote statement, highlighted in bold type, emphasized that Bayh supported an alternative \$1.2 trillion tax cut, which positioned him below the final tax-cut total but above a \$900-billion Democratic proposal. In his statement, Bayh didn't explicitly say that he voted against the final Senate measure.

The Senate legislation now heads to a conference committee where it must be reconciled with a \$1.6 trillion tax cut approved by the House. Republicans hope to send a final bill to President Bush by Memorial Day.

Last week Bayh said he might have voted in favor of the Senate tax bill if it included a trigger mechanism that would tie future tax cuts and spending to debt reduction targets, after an initial tax cut is approved. The Bayh trigger amendment received 49 votes in a Senate roll call Monday night, falling short of the 60 votes required for passage by Senate rules. A trigger "reassures credit markets that we will not go back to days of deficit and debts," Bayh said last week. "It decreases substantially the risk of having tax increases in the future. This is the conservative approach."

But Republican conservatives backed the \$1.35 trillion measure. "This will be the most significant tax reform since the 1981 Ronald Reagan tax cut that set the course of capital formation and long-term economic growth," said Sen. Richard Lugar in a statement. "

House conservatives are likely to support legislation emanating from the conference committee. "The need for tax relief is so urgent in terms of economic recovery that most conservatives would be hard pressed to consider a 'no' vote on a

bill that cuts taxes in a meaningful way," said GOP Rep. Mike Pence (R-new 6th CD). Pence emphasized the need to reduce the marriage penalty and lower the top tax rate from 39 percent to 33 percent. "Half of Americans who file at the top rate are small business owners," he said.

Pence's likely opponent in the new 6th CD, Melina Fox, opposes the tax proposal winding its way through Congress because it does not provide enough relief

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for people in the lowest bracket. "It's not a responsible economic plan for prosperity," she said. Just south of the 6th CD, Democratic Rep. Baron Hill is trying to cut a tax path similar to Bayh's. The 9th CD incumbent is a member of the centrist Blue Dog Democrats. He supported the group's budget plan that reduced taxes less than the \$1.6 trillion bill that passed and would have dedicated more funds to paying down the national debt.

Hill voted in favor of a marriage penalty reduction bill but against legislation to repeal the estate tax. In a pair of two-page memos to reporters rebutting criticism leveled at him by the National Federation of Independent Business, Hill said that the estate tax bill would not provide relief fast enough. Last week Hill was recognized by the Concord Coalition for fiscal conservatism.

"I was surprised in looking at the number of Democrats who voted with the administration on the marriage penalty and the estate tax that Hill wasn't one of them," said Bernadette Budde, senior vice president of the Business Industrial Political Action Committee. Many of the 43 House Democrats who voted for both the marriage penalty and estate tax bills represent districts similar to Hill's, with a small business and agriculture base. Hill did not respond to a request for an interview. ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Stuart Rothenberg, *Roll Call* -

Unless the White House figures out a way to defuse the political aspect of the energy issue over the next 18 months, the Republicans will lose control of both houses of Congress in the 2002 midterm elections. GOP losses could easily fall in the range of 20 to 25 House seats (in a reminder of their 26-seat loss in Ronald Reagan's first midterm election) and two to four Senate seats, leaving President Bush with hostile Democratic majorities for the remainder of his term. If energy prices remain high and supply concerns spread nationally, voters are likely to revisit questions about Bush's competence and be open to the argument that the President is more interested in helping his friends in the energy industry than in protecting consumers. Even more important, concerns about energy are likely to divide GOP officeholders, giving voters the impression that the Republican Party is confused and unprepared to lead. And a party that appears divided will not receive the confidence (or votes) of the American people. This midterm scenario, which is far from inevitable, has already begun to play out in a number of ways. Bush's job-approval rating has started to slide, and the public has not been impressed with his handling of the energy shortage. ❖

Anna Quindlen, *Newsweek* - When the President seemed cavalier about greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide emissions and arsenic levels in water, conservative advisers may have thought he would anger only the Sierra Club. But in the years since the environmentalists were denigrated as tree huggers, America's fields have been filled with numbingly identical town-house communities, some towns have come to rely on bottled water for consumption and California is being

hit with rolling blackouts. A recent Gallup Poll found that a stunning four out of five Americans support tougher pollution standards for industry. But it is not just his conservative ideology that has turned moderates against the President. The masquerade of the campaign, in which both candidates acted like people moving through a house trying not to set off the motion detectors, has left the gullible feeling of snookered. Reports of ebbing support are filled with suggestions that he will now tack to the center, or shore up the middle. The point of all this tacking and shoring is clear: the next election. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal*

Gazette - What remains of Bush's three-part education package is mandatory annual reading and math tests in grades three through eight. That's the way it is in bipartisanship: everybody compromises and gets a little of what they want and little that they can't take a big breath and live with. A byproduct of bipartisanship, however, can be a big bye-bye from the most conservative or most liberal. Thus, nobody is surprised to find Rep. Mark Souder among those who are furious that Bush is more keen on wooing Democratic votes than he is on pleasing conservatives. Calling it the "Leave No Democrat Behind" bill, a play on Bush's "Leave No Child Behind" education campaign, Souder said the only reason he could come up with to vote for the legislation is to support Bush. As of late last week, that wasn't argument enough for him. The bill, according to Souder, has nothing to make a conservative salivate such as vouchers, the no-strings money or allowing religious groups to operate after-school programs. What it does have is something that Souder abhors, namely mandatory testing. ❖

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especially the value of hard work," Visclosky said. And in using "your God-given talents to benefit others," Visclosky cited Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan who "almost gave his life for his country in May of 1972 when he was shot down by the enemy ... over North Vietnam."

GALLUP POLL GIVES BUSH TEPID MARKS: A USA

Today/Gallup Poll showed that nearly half the respondents said President Bush's energy plan would not do enough to conserve energy, and 43 percent said the plan would do too little to increase production. Americans also were split over the Bush proposal to increase the number of nuclear power plants to generate electricity: 49 percent for and 46 percent against." The tepid response to the Bush energy plan might have been a factor in raising his job-approval rating from 31 percent a week ago to 36 percent now, the highest of his presidency. His 56 percent job-approval rating did not change from a week ago" (USA Today). The May 18-20 poll of 1,010 adults has an error margin of +/- 3 percentage points.

EAST CHICAGO SEEKS STATE FUNDS AFTER LTV MISSES TAX PAYMENT:

East Chicago officials are seeking to borrow at least \$11 million from the state

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budget to offset LTV's failure this month to pay \$11 million in overdue property taxes (Times of Northwest Indiana). LTV filed for bankruptcy Dec. 29, and federal bankruptcy law prohibits the payment of debt incurred prior to a company filing for bankruptcy protection, noted Mark Tomasch, an LTV spokesman. Tomasch declined to speculate when a reorganization plan might be completed, or whether LTV expects to miss its November property tax payment, expected to total another \$11 million. Edwardo Maldonado, the city controller, said East Chicago expects no further layoffs or fiscal belt-tightening in the wake of LTV's tax delinquency. The state's \$21 billion budget approved April 29 by the General Assembly included a \$16 billion bailout for cash-strapped East Chicago, which requires the city to wait until LTV missed its first property tax payment this year.

PETERSON LAUDS SEWAGE PLAN PASSAGE: Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson applauded the City-County Council for passing the city's plan to reduce the flow of raw sewage into city's waterways. The ordinance, which passed 23-5, funds the first phase of the plan, including some upgrades to the city's treatment plants and other

Indiana 2002, 2004 Racing Form

Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, Sen. Teresa Lubbers, Paul Helmke, Eric Miller, Pat Kiely, George Witwer. **Democrat:** Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D), Goldsmith (R), Dillon (L). **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** Provisions designed to reduce the impact of new property tax assessment rules on homeowners may not be legal or even effective. "It could blow the whole system up," said Thomas Atherton, an attorney who took part in a forum on the so-called shelter allowance (Mike Smith, *Associated Press*). Gov. O'Bannon is expected to sign the new rules into effect soon, marking the biggest change in assessment practices in decades. There lies the biggest danger for Joe Kernan in accepting the status quo on property taxes. The shelter allowance will be challenged in court. Tax Judge Thomas Fisher has signaled that he will never accept the shelter allowance. Even O'Bannon after the Fort Wayne debate with McIntosh last October couldn't guarantee it would pass constitutional muster. To rely wholly on the shelter allowance to ward off 2003 leaps in property reassessments is a huge gamble that could seriously jeopardize even savvy Kernan campaign. War hero imagery can succumb to the pocketbook. The good news for Kernan is that if he wants John Gregg on the ticket, he's now available. Some Democratic women were pushing for Sen. Vi Simpson or Rep. Sue Crosby to gender diversify the ticket. But that's more of a critical issue for Republicans, who have seen the key female, moderate, independent voting bloc vote repeatedly for Bayh and O'Bannon. Kernan will be keenly watching the Behning-McDaniel battle on the GOP state committee. *Indianapolis Star's* Behind Closed Doors column gigs Kenley over mixed signals on cutting state employee pay raise. **Status:** *Leans D.*

Secretary of State 2002: Republican: Mike Delph, Deputy Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Richard Mourdock, Luke Messer, Paul Helmke, Carmel Clerk-Treasurer Diana Cordray. **Democrat:** Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers (D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Results:** Gilroy 828,557, Little (D) 652,565, Dillon (L) 51,775. **2002 Forecast:** Helmke ponders entry. **Status:** *Tossup.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: Chris Chocola, State Sen. Thomas Weatherwax. **Democrat:** Jill Long Thompson, State Sen. Bill Alexa, Mark Meisner, Katie Humphries, Cleo Washington. **Geography:** LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Miami, Carroll and parts of Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **2000 Result:** Roemer (D) 107,076, Chocola (R) 98,367. **2002 Forecast:** Former South Bend Mayor Roger O. Parent is dropping out, several Democratic sources have told *HPR*. Washington political strategist Chris Sautter tells *HPR*, "I don't know what his stated reason is (or will be), but I suspect that Jill Long Thompson is proving much stronger than, perhaps, he anticipated. She has managed to secure commitments of support from a lot of key Democrats, including most (if not all) of the county chairs in the new district." Mark Meisner, Sen. Bayh's NE Indiana director, has indicated he'll enter the race, presumably to gin up his name ID for the future. Meisner unsuccessfully challenged State Sen. Kent Adams in 1996. Chocola wasn't able to meet with President Bush at Notre Dame last Sunday. Chocola understood that it wasn't a strange political decision but a decision to "minimize politics" during an official presidential trip for a commencement speech. "There will be a more significant opportunity later," Chocola said, expressing confidence that the Republican president will endorse him enthusiastically during the 2002 congressional campaign, just as Bush did during a South Bend campaign stop during the campaign last fall (Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*). **Status:** *Tossup.*

Congressional District 4: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns, State Sen. Mike Young. **Democrat:** Open. **Geography:** Tippecanoe, Clinton, Boone, Montgomery, Hendricks, Morgan, Lawrence and parts of Marion, Johnson, Monroe, Fountain

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and White counties. **Media Market:** Lafayette, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Evansville, Louisville. **2000 Results: Old 5th CD:** Buyer (R) 132,035, Goodnight (D) 81,423; **Old 7th CD:** Kerns 131,562, Graf (D) 65,174.. **2002 Forecast:** The *Rothenberg Political Report* observed that Indiana Democrats really wanted to force Kerns into a Bloody 8th primary with U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, quoting one Democratic insider as saying, "The best laid plans of mice and men ...Kerns just didn't cooperate." *Rothenberg* reported, "As both men travel the district in search of new supporters among elected officials and party activists, it has become clear that few party leaders are jumping on either bandwagon at this early stage of the contest. Increasingly, a tough - and nasty - primary between Kerns and Buyer seems inevitable." *Rothenberg* quoted one GOP insider that it is a "waste of time" to get one of them to drop out, saying, "They're both in this to stay and it will get a lot worse before it gets better." *Rothenberg's* bottom line: "District observers generally give Buyer the early advantage." **Status:** *Safe R.*

Congressional District 6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. **Democrat:**

Melina Ann Fox. **Geography:** Anderson, Muncie, Richmond; Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin, and parts of Bartholomew, Shelby, Johnson and Allen counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Cincinnati. **2000 results:** Pence (R) 106,023, Rock (D) 80,885, Frazier (I) 19,07. **2002 Forecast:** The early vestiges of a Pence-Fox race have become a microcosm on the American energy issue. Fox told *HPR*, "Wherever I go, voters are talking about the huge profits of the energy companies and the cost of health care and drugs. No one mentions the tax cut." On Saturday Pence was in Columbus and Anderson supporting Bush's energy plan. Pence stated that he supports renewable energy sources such as solar power and wind power. "The President's budget cuts these programs by about one-third with no mention in the energy report that more money will be proposed," Fox responded. "I believe renewable fuels and ethanol would expand supplies, help lower prices and the environment and stimulate rural economies like the 6th District." **Pence** had been an advocate of an even bigger tax cut than President Bush had sought, but he has already shifted gears and announced plans to have his congressional subcommittee look into standardizing clean-air regulations throughout broad regions of the country to allow retailers to buy cheaper gasoline. "One of the short-term ways we could increase supply is to take a regional approach to clean-air standards," Pence said (John Clark, *Columbus Republic*). "There is no general shortage of gasoline," Pence said. "There is a shortage of properly mixed gasoline" (Rick Yencer, *Muncie Star Press*). That stance shows that Pence is well aware of the danger the gasoline and energy crisis presents to President Bush and a freshman running in a mid-term election. As Stuart Rothenberg points out in his *Roll Call* column this week (excerpted, page 5), Republicans lost 26 seats in Reagan's first mid-term election which came in 1982 after redistricting. The fact that Pence has to acclimate himself in seven new counties makes him a tad more vulnerable. Democrats are showing signs of coalescing around Fox, knowing that her shot at upsetting Pence will be compromised if she has to go through a bruising, multi-candidate primary. We still see Pence as the front-runner, but this is a district that could be impacted by a national dynamic. **Status:** *Leans R.*

Congressional District 7: Republican: Brose McVey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep.

Julia Carson. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** Mike Copher, spokesman for U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, now running in the 4th CD, told *HPR*, "They took away a sizable amount of Pike, Decatur and Wayne Townships (in Marion County) from (U.S. Rep. Julia) Carson and gave it to us in the new 4th CD. The question to me was how they add that many residents to the new 4th CD from the new 7th CD and the numbers still work out? I do not know what other changes the commission made around the state with any great detail but it does raise a flag that they could increase the 4th so much from the plan that passed the House and the numbers still make sense." Democratic sources told *HPR* that the areas shifted from the original Democratic maps to the final maps were Republican areas with the goal of easing some pressure on Carson during the first couple of elections this decade. **McVey** had a decent turnout at a Biergarten fundraiser in Indianapolis last week. He will position himself as a moderate Republican - a sharp departure from the last two Carson challenges made by Gary Hofmeister and Marvin Scott. The Carsonites need to be wary of McVey. He has proven to be an adroit

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construction, design and engineering work. "Tonight, we took a huge step toward cutting the sickening flow of raw sewage into rivers and streams that run near parks, backyards and schools throughout our community," Peterson said. The long-term control plan, compiled after seven years of research and one of the most comprehensive public outreach efforts to date, would address the century-old problem of human waste, toilet paper, bacteria, viruses, oil and other pollutants dumping into the White River, Fall Creek, Pogues Run, Eagle Creek and Pleasant Run during rainy weather.

VISCLOSKY MEETS WITH O'NEILL ON STEEL CRISIS: Rep. Visclosky and six other congressmen from steel-producing states pressed Bush administration officials Tuesday for a wide-ranging investigation of their allegations that foreign steel producers are dumping on the American market. "I think that the administration (now) understands that time is of the essence -- that was certainly emphasized -- and that action needed to be taken," said Visclosky after the meeting with Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, Commerce Secretary Donald Evans and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick (Clint Mitchell, *Times of Northwest Indiana*).

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ELKHART MAYOR PROTESTS PORN SITES AVAILABLE AT LIBRARY: Mayor Dave Miller wants the Elkhart Common Council to say no to pornography -- at the Elkhart Public Library across the street from City Hall. On Monday night, a Miller-sponsored resolution calling for a ban on access to adult-content Internet sites at all library computers will go before the council for a first reading. At the Elkhart Public Library, administrators and the library board continue to work on a policy which will protect access rights for adults as well as comply with a new federal law, the Child Internet Protection Act, according to Library Director Connie Jo Ozinga. "The library board has been holding a discussion about this for some time," Ozinga said, after seeing the mayor's resolution on Friday for the first time (Keith Benman, South Bend Tribune). "That's how this got in the newspapers in the first place. We thank the mayor for his input, but we are working on this." Three weeks ago, Miller stood in front of television cameras and reporters in front of City Hall and expressed outrage that porn sites are available on adult computers at the library.



strategist, having managed Dan Coats' 1992 campaign against Joe Hogsett that was supposed to be a barn burner. McVey's decision to exploit Hogsett's pledge to serve an entire term as secretary of state in April 1992 turned that race into a laughter, and the Coats campaign was disciplined, stayed on message, and avoided criticisms over misuse of franking and faxing that dogged Coats' 1990 campaign. The 1992 effort was worthy of textbook status on how to run a campaign. Working in the private sector, McVey has developed a reputation for being a corporate troubleshooter in media relations. His work on behalf of a Peru meat packing firm stung by reports of contaminated bacon bits was another display of savvy work with the news media. In that case, the Marburger company made a full disclosure and invited the media in view the company's solution. **Status:** *Leans D.*

Congressional District 8 Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:**

Paul Perry, State Reps. Russ Stilwell, Susan Crosby, David Crooks, Dale Grubb and Jonathon Weinzapfel. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties.

Media Market: Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Lafayette. **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 Results: Hostettler 116,860, Perry (D) 100,461. **2002 Forecast:** House Speaker John Gregg's exit from the race isn't just a bullet dodged by Hostettler, it's a howitzer. Still, Hostettler will likely face a credible opponent in 2002 and his re-election is anything but a sure thing. The scenario Stuart Rothenberg laid out in his *Roll Call* column (excerpted, page 5) is exactly the kind of event that could wash out Hostettler. **Weinzapfel** - with two young kids and two more on the way - is signaling that he won't run. Warrick County Democrats are pushing **Stilwell**, who would enjoy great labor ties that would make him a player district wide. **Crosby**, who had been angling for the LG slot on the state 2004 ticket, now finds Gregg as a huge obstacle (no pun intended) and might consider the 8th CD race. Her problem is that she comes from the more sparsely populated northern part of the district. **Grubb** appears to have not seriously considered a run for Congress and would give up his majority caucus chair in the Indiana House. His children are older and, thus, family concerns are not as much a factor as they might be with Weinzapfel. **Perry** lost by 16,000 votes in 2000, but like Weinzapfel, that came in a presidential year where Republicans run better. Perry has already indicated he'll get in if Gregg opts out and he must work hard to win over the establishment Democrats who seemed to be lukewarm last year. Part of that stemmed from the notion that Gregg might surface in 2002 while others grumbled about his pro-life stance (same as Gregg). With the Speaker out of the way, Perry has the personality and resources to create a new day for himself. He could position himself as a Democrat with similar social views as Gregg. **Tony Long**, 8th CD Chair, told *HPR* late Wednesday, "The names getting the most play are Paul Perry (who has expressed an interest), Jonathan Weinzapfel (who is considering his options), Susan Crosby (from whom we are awaiting word) and Russ Stilwell (who is silent to date but has his supporters). The 8th has a great legislative contingency and a long list of other potentials. I'm sure there are others who deserve a good look. I am looking to call a district meeting in June. I'm sure the list will get shorter soon." As for **Hostettler**, his campaign exuded confidence. Jeff Knight, Hostettler's brother-in-law and campaign adviser, said Gregg's decision didn't come as a surprise. He said Gregg's decision to put his family first was a wise one. "That's a struggle for anybody who's going to run a campaign in what is now an 18-county-wide district," he said (Steve Hinnefeld, *Bloomington Herald-Times*). "It takes a lot of time and commitment to do that." Hostettler is married and has four children, ranging in age from 5 to 14. The family lives at Blairsville, west of Evansville. "John puts God first, his family second and work where it should be, but it's still very demanding," Knight said. He said Hostettler's supporters are confident the congressman will win a fifth term in office in the redrawn district. "I honestly believe we would have beaten John Gregg, but it would have probably been a tough race for both sides," Knight said. **Status:** *Tossup.*

- Brian A. Howey ❖

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