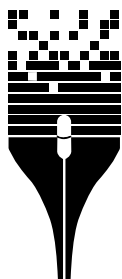


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“If I were Islamic, I would say these people should be put on the same list as Salman Rushdie.” - State Rep. Brent Steele, R-Bedford, on producers of the IPFW play ‘Corpus Christi’ to a federal judge, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

Beyond their stars, Dems talked policy

Indiana used as a model for centrists

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

There was the veneer of the Democratic Leadership Council that caught the attention of the press, such as U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton’s dramatic appearance on Monday that wowed the 650 delegates and prompted conservative Republican Gary Hofmeister to snort, “If Hillary Clinton is a centrist, I’m Leon Trotsky.”

There were the “cultural divide” speeches by U.S. Sens. Evan Bayh and Joe Lieberman. “We have too often dismissed and disparaged the importance of faith in American life and made the faithful feel unwelcome in our party, particularly if they are open and outspoken about their religion,” said Lieberman. “Many of my fellow Democrats asked me to keep my prayers quiet and my belief in the importance of religion to our past and to our future to myself. I did not and I will not and neither should any of you, my fellow Democrats, who feel the same way.”

Bayh, the DLC chairman, argued that Democrats find themselves on the wrong side of a “cultural divide” in the country, as *Washington Post* writer Dan Balz reported. “There is no good reason why seven out of every 10 people who go to church every Sunday don’t feel comfortable with the Democratic Party,” Bayh said. “Or that 80 percent of those serving in the military voted against us.”

Democratic pollster Mark Penn seemed to contradict Bayh and Lieberman the next day, dousing the notion that Democrats ought to aggressively pursue the Christian voter who has already found a home on the GOP’s right flank. “These voters care more about secular issues than religious issues,” Penn said the groups he called Swing I (27 percent

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HPR EXCLUSIVE - IVY TECH HIRES BAUER: Reliable sources tell HPR that Ivy Tech has hired House Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, and will pay him \$80,000 a year. Ivy Tech now employs in its administration the powerful Democrat and Republican Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, R-Columbus. "It's a done deal," said our source. "What do you suppose they want with a pair like Garton and Bauer?" HPR responded, "Show me the money." Bauer is reportedly still weighing a run in the new 2nd CD.

McAULIFFE DISSES ANDREW: Democratic National Chairman Terry McAuliffe reported on the state of the party with his predecessor Joe Andrew listening in the wings. McAuliffe said he had done a 30-day review of the Democratic Party and the results were "devastating." He observed, "The Republicans have 150 million names on their voter files. Ours? Zero. The Republicans have tens of millions of e-mail addresses compiled. How many do we have? 70,000." The trashing of Andrew, whose stewardship aided Al Gore to a 540,000-vote plurality in the presidential race, a narrow loss in the House and a 50/50 Senate

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Democrats, *from page 1*

of the electorate, suburban women, socially progressive, pro-choice, family centered values, less sensitive to fiscal issues, less concerned about candidate attributes) and Swing II (28 percent of the electorate, wired working men, fiscally conservative, socially progressive, investing in stocks, work in suburbs, want authenticity). Bush won 100 percent of the late-breaking Swing II votes in 2000; Clinton won 27 percent of them in 1996. Had Al Gore matched Clinton, he would have defeated Bush 52-45 percent in the popular vote. "They are concerned about things like the Family Leave Act and the problems of dealing with aging parents. The people who care about religious issues are already Republican, and they are not going to change," Penn said.

Emerging Democratic themes

In his "situation analysis," Penn said that President Bush "took a tremendous but not fatal hit" when Sen. James Jeffords bolted the party "and there are signs he is beginning to rebound from this. Democrats must take pains to be

bipartisan and stand on conviction."

Penn took aim at what he called the "Bush values shield" and said, "Democrats must penetrate the values shield Bush has put around himself. He must not be shown as just in tune with business interests but rather out of step on issues like the economy, budget, health care and energy. We should tie the House Republicans around Bush as they are weaker on values measures and up for re-election first."

Finally, Penn said, "As the budget surplus wanes, Bush takes an enormous gamble being seen as spending the Medicare Trust Fund. Democrats must argue for a limited but activist federal government and oppose a strangled federal government that leaves everybody fighting for themselves."

These are some of the themes Republicans can expect Democrats to aim at them next year.

Public Policy

Beyond the pure politics, the DLC offered up a great deal of public policy discussion that can be expected to enter the political domain in 2002, the municipal elections of 2003, and the presidential

race in 2004. On crime, these include DNA testing for more felony offenders, Maryland's "HotSpots" program where an array of community resources work with police in areas where 50 percent of the crimes occur in 3 percent of neighborhoods, and ComStat, the computer program that allows police to analyze crime statistics and quickly shift resources.

In one of the most intriguing presentations of the conference, Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley talked about his "CitiStat" program, that like ComStat uses an array of computer-generated statistics in fields such as housing, public health and trash collection that are constantly audited and shared by multiple agencies to effectively reconcentrate resources.

Baltimore is in the process of setting up a 911-style phone line for other services.

Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan, who said his governing mindset is more in tune with his nine years as mayor of South Bend than his current job, talked about how he confronted the homeless problem there back in 1988. It seemed to be an intractable situation, Kernan said, until he drew together the city, University of Notre Dame, the multi-denominational United Religious Community, and the Junior League that resulted in what he called the "Miracle on South Michigan Street." The homeless center in the old Gilbert's men store houses 250 men, women and children, offers a Montessori pre-school, mental health counseling and a network of 7,000 active volunteers who work in the center. "You will not find anyone who has anything bad to say about the homeless center," Kernan said. "The role of government means doing things well, and not doing them alone."

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson discussed his role as the only U.S. mayor with controlling authority over charter schools. "The mayor has the ability to marshall the community resources," Peterson said. "No public official is more accountable than the mayor."

Peterson took on what he called the

"myths" of charter schools (voucher lite, elitist, without equal access). And he noted that he was working "very closely" on the issue with the co-chair of his opponent's campaign, Christal DeHaan.

The DLC also featured public policy initiatives that appear to depart from their base, such as labor. They call for an end to teacher tenure. Gov. Frank O'Bannon touted Indiana's tougher new academic standards and the Democrats highlighted Georgia's new school reforms that take on tenure. "Good teachers don't need tenure and bad teachers don't deserve it," said Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes.

Indiana going Democratic?

Both Sens. Bayh and Clinton raised the specter of Indiana possibly voting Democratic presidentially, something it's done only four times in the last 108 years.

"Because we believe in personal responsibility and mending the fraying social fabric, we were among the first states to implement welfare reform, to move tens of thousands from the welfare rolls to the payrolls, to expand home health care for the elderly, prenatal care for the young, and to provide healthcare for tens of thousands of poorer citizens who are sick or afflicted," Bayh said. "The result of our New Democratic approach improved the lives of millions of Hoosiers in tangible ways. The political results were equally profound. With the right kind of program and candidate, we can even carry Indiana in a presidential election, but that is conversation for another day."

In an HPR/TeleResearch Poll last September, Gore trailed Bush by only 8 percent. A centrist presidential candidate in 2004 could potentially find Indiana in play. While the DLC conversed in Indy, Al Gore opened up a political office in Nashville, and Lieberman indicated he wouldn't run if Gore did. That, too, is a conversation for another day. ❖

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poised to slip into Democratic hands just after he stepped down - prompted several Hoosiers to withdraw their checkbooks at a McAuliffe fundraiser later in the day.

BAYH WISHES BUSH

WELL: At a press conference after his speech, Sen. Bayh said that he hoped President Bush "does well." He said, "I assumed he would be more pragmatic" and said that moves such as the John Ashcroft attorney general nomination were a "bow to the right" but added, "It's gone on a lot longer than that. He has a tin ear."

LIEBERMAN SAYS HE WON'T RUN IF GORE

DOES: Asked to name the leader of the Democratic Party, Sen. Lieberman did not immediately mention Al Gore, the standard bearer from 2000, who beat George W. Bush in the popular vote. "There is no obvious and natural leader," Lieberman said (Berke, New York Times). Then he named Tom Daschle and Dick Gephardt. And then he said, "Obviously President Clinton." Only then did Lieberman suggest "former Vice President Gore." The Evansville Courier & Press reported that Lieberman said he would not run for president if Gore did. Immediately after the election, the DLC

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issued a sharply critical analysis of former Vice President Al Gore for running a campaign that abandoned centrist themes for populist rhetoric (Balz, Washington Post). "I think we could have given a larger voice to these concerns in the last election," Bayh said. "Some of the class warfare rhetoric is something we might have done differently."

O'BANNON LIFTS BIF MORATORIUM: Gov. Frank O'Bannon lifted a moratorium on doling out Build Indiana grants Wednesday, but put new restrictions on how the state distributes the gambling money (Tim Starks, Evansville Courier & Press). Among other things, nonprofit groups must find government entities such as counties or cities to sponsor their projects before they can receive money, and all projects will be subject to state audits. "Projects will move forward but under a different process," O'Bannon said. State Budget Director Betty Cockrum said the administration was cooperating fully with the outside investigations, but declined to comment further because they are ongoing. O'Bannon wants the Legislature to revisit the 1989 law during the next session and make possible changes to strengthen it. Cockrum, in a report to the governor, said lawmakers might want to

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Manous reaches out to a divergent party

INDIANAPOLIS - HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey sat down with Gov. Frank O'Bannon's Democratic chairman-designate Peter Manous on Monday at the Democratic Leadership Conference to talk about his appointment and some of the controversies surrounding it:

HPR: It wouldn't be the Democratic Party if there wasn't some complaining and we've heard some of that after Gov. O'Bannon chose you to be the new chair.

Manous: I've talked with the leadership of the House and the Senate. I've spoken with the Lake County delegation, or most of them. I've spoken with Rep. Brown and Rep. Dobis and had good conversations. Chairman (Stephen) Stiglich and I have talked once or twice a day over the last three or four days. It's actually gone pretty well.

HPR: What did you and Rep. Brown talk about?

Manous: He was upset about notification. He indicated it wasn't a personal issue. It was a good conversation and he was pleased to know I was talking with Chairman Stiglich on a regular basis for the past couple of years. As you know, when the governor won by 75,000 votes in Lake County it was by no accident. There was a lot of effort going there by the chairman and the efforts he made pulling everyone together and getting the message out. So we had a very good working relationship. There's a hiccup every once in awhile, but for the most part it went very well. In fact we're having lunch tomorrow (Tuesday) We try to have lunch once a month and probably talk two or three times a week.

HPR: People in the other 91 counties really don't understand Lake County. Is what we heard after your appointment pretty typical of a group that puts the word fun in dysfunctional?

Manous: We've got a big family with a lot of different interests. But they

all work very hard for Lake County. If someone is upset about communication, I was a product of the process; I wasn't in the process and I've done my best over the last couple of days to reach out to everybody and I'll continue to do that. Robin (Winston) and Joe Andrew were very big on inclusiveness and there will be no bigger champion on inclusiveness than Peter Manous.

HPR: Would you have rather had Gov. O'Bannon and Lt. Gov. Kernan talk prior to your appointment?

Manous: I don't know what went on. I wasn't a part of that. I understand

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there was some discussion, but how much I couldn't tell you. I got the call around 1

o'clock on Tuesday from the governor and obviously I told him I would love to serve. I had a great relationship with the lieutenant governor and he's got a great staff. I spoke to Mary Downes the day of the announcement. I talked to the lieutenant governor the following day when he got back from Bloomington and had a good conversation. I talked to Kip Tew today. There are huge issues out there and the lieutenant governor is going to be spearheading one of them and that's taxes. So I anticipate having a great relationship with everyone on his staff.

HPR: As this controversy percolated up in the press, I kept thinking, it's the governor's prerogative. He's still got three and a half years. It's almost as if people are wanting to dive into 2004 right now.

Manous: My biggest challenge is the '02 election cycle. We have an entire state that has been redistricted. We've got people in new territories with new voters. The highest priority is going to be winning the '02 House races, trying to maintain the number of senators we have, and

then looking at the statewide and see how we can possibly get the strongest run possible. I heard John Fernandez gave a great oration today and he's going to be an outstanding candidate. We've got some great people. Then I've got the whole 2nd District Congressional race. Roemer's seat is going to be critical.

HPR: Have you talked with B. Patrick Bauer?

Manous: I haven't got that far. I will be talking to Rep. Bauer. I attended his fundraiser in East Chicago last year and contributed to his campaign. My wife was involved in that whole issue (under-age drinking at Bauer's tavern) and she was just doing her job as prosecutor. My wife (Susan Severtson of the Alcoholic Beverage Commission) is an outstanding lawyer - 10 times the lawyer I'll ever be. She was just doing her job. I'm sure it was awkward for everybody, but it appears that it's worked itself out and I think I'll have a good relationship with Patrick Bauer.

HPR: Isn't that how it's supposed to work?

Manous: I would hope the prosecu-

tor for the ABC is going to follow what the law is and work out those situations. In my mind, as awkward as that was - and it was awkward in our house - I never tell my wife how to do her job. If she hadn't done her job people would have attacked the governor for not responding.

HPR: Can you manage the party from Merrillville?

Manous: Activity down here goes in ebbs and flows. Obviously when the legislative session is going on there's a lot more going on than in the summer. I will be very visible down here. I will be here between two and three days a week and even more during the session. But look at how Robin and I worked - e-mails at all different hours of the day and night, phone calls, pages. We had a three-hour conference call the other day over party rules with Shaw (Friedman), myself and others. It's a new century and a new century of communications. There will be no problem in getting hold of Peter Manous and there will be no problem when Peter Manous wants to get hold of anybody else. ❖

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amend the definition of eligible applicants or more clearly define what constitutes a capital project. "I do not believe there is consensus on these points, and I think that the General Assembly should be given time to consider this matter," Cockrum said in the report. Rep. Win Moses of Fort Wayne, a leading Democrat in the House, said many of the changes mirror those called for by House Speaker John Gregg, D-Sandborn. "I want to emphasize that this has been a very good program and has helped every community," Moses said. "This makes it a better program."

STEELE SAYS TO COMPARE PLAY PRODUCERS TO SALMAN RUSHDIE HIT LIST: An Indiana legislator said he believes producers of the IPFW play "Corpus Christi" should be put on a hit list similar to what the Islamic government of Iran did with British author Salman Rushdie. "I find it repugnant, quite frankly," state Rep. Brent Steele, R-Bedford, testified in court on Tuesday (Laura Emerson, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "If I were Islamic, I would say these people should be put on the same list as Salman Rushdie." Several area residents vowed Tuesday never again to visit the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

Souder tries to convince Bush on stem cells

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.

WASHINGTON - As President Bush does the political math prior to his decision on whether to approve federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, the key question is who will have a larger coefficient attached to the anger variable - those opposed or those in favor?

On one side are pro-life advocates, such as Reps. Mark Souder (R-4th CD) and Mike Pence (R-2nd CD). They both oppose research on embryos because they believe it is akin to abortion. On Tuesday, Souder chaired a House Government Reform subcommittee hearing on stem cells that featured three children who were adopted as embryos.

Stem cells, obtained from unused embryos in fertility clinics and adults, can develop into many different kinds of cells

and tissues. They are potentially valuable in treating illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease, leukemia and diabetes. A study released Wednesday by the National Institutes of Health concluded that embryonic stem cells are easier to extract and multiply and have the ability to transform into a wider variety of tissues.

Souder supports work on adult stem cells. But if Bush were to approve federal funding of embryonic research, it won't necessarily foment a revolt on the right.

"The only thing it can do is damage him in the conservative community, but honestly, I don't know how much damage it will do," said Souder. "With the battles coming over court appointments, it's unclear. There are so many pro-life issues, and this is one of the more obscure ones."

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because the university is allowing the play "Corpus Christi" to be staged there in August. John Price, attorney for the plaintiffs, told Lee that IPFW's plan to produce the play has led his clients to believe government disapproves of their religion.

DA APPOINTMENTS COULD COME SOON: When a new U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Indiana is selected may depend on the ebb and flow of summertime Washington, D.C., politics (Times of Northwest Indiana). Andy Fisher, a spokesman for Sen. Richard Lugar, said this week the announcement could come within the next three weeks or it may have to wait until September. Highland attorney Joseph Van Bokkelen is widely expected to be named the federal prosecutor for the area.

ALLEN COUNTY MIGHT HIRE OKESON: The Allen County Council might hire former Indiana Clerk of Courts H. John Okeson as its attorney. Okeson, a lawyer with Baker & Daniels, confirmed Tuesday he may become the council's attorney, but declined to comment further. "They are a good outfit," Councilman Bill Schinzer said of Baker & Daniels (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette).

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Trying to determine who will be more miffed, moderates or conservatives, may be misguided. "Anger is not the right word," said Larry Sabato, professor of political science at the University of Virginia. "Even the right is split. Anyone who has spent even an hour studying this knows that it's a complicated issue."

The fissure among conservatives can be seen on Capitol Hill. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who is pro-life, and Nancy Reagan have come out in favor of stem cell research. Former President Reagan suffers from Alzheimer's. Hoosier GOP Sen. Richard Lugar also supports stem cell research. "I and others would argue that (stem cell research) is really a life-affirming process, with very little risk of life being terminated because of the safeguards built around the use of this material," he told the *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*. But Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott is opposed.

Both sides are adamant that their position is supported by science. Souder said that research success has been achieved over many decades with adult stem cells. It's the embryonic cells that are untested and unreliable. He questions the strong push for embryonic research.

"It starts to look like an ideological agenda from the pro-abortion people," he said. "The implication in the media is that pro-lifers have tried to block science."

The pro-life side is trying to dispel that image. "Science has shown that adult cells work better," said Stephen Piepgrass, Pence's press secretary. "Adult stem cells, although not as malleable in the lab, offer more hope to patients once they're implanted because their bodies are less likely to reject them."

For the undecided, such as Rep. Tim Roemer (D-3rd CD), the debate offers much to evaluate. "He's strongly pro-life. He's thinking this over very hard," said Mark Brown, Roemer's chief of staff. It's an issue that probably won't

be decided along party lines, which means groups such as the New Democrat Coalition, which Roemer co-chairs, won't coalesce around it. "Members will vote their conscience," said Brown.

A Bush decision to fund embryonic research could create tension on Capitol Hill, as conservatives try to overturn the ruling. "That will involve a lengthy fight with Congress," said Marshall Wittmann, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute.

Bush likely will be in a pickle no matter which way he turns. "He's going to be portrayed either as being hostage to his base or betraying it," said Wittmann. "This is a situation that would defy King Solomon. You can't cut the embryo in half."

Although conservatives may grouse about embryonic stem cell research, it isn't guaranteed to be a potent campaign issue in 2002. "I think this is hyped," said Sabato. "I don't believe this will have a big impact either way. It won't be a defining issue of the campaign because it's too nuanced and complicated."

Those properties also prevent a clear understanding of public opinion on the matter. "Polling is inconclusive because it's based on such a lack of knowledge," said Souder. "It depends on how you word the question."

Souder tried to improve awareness for his side through his subcommittee. "It's hard to believe we've been debating this for years and no congressional hearing has had the thrust to bring alternatives to embryonic research," he said.

But the pro-life side has to offer more than an anti-abortion stance. "We can't be anti-science and nonsympathetic to people who have these problems," he said referring to Alzheimer's and other diseases. He said that's why it's important that Bush emphasize embryo adoption and increased funding for adult stem cell investigation if he decides to deny federal support for embryonic research. Souder pointed out that embryonic research could continue in private clinics. ❖

Indiana 2002, 2004 Racing Form

Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, Randall Tobias, Paul Helmke, Eric Miller, George Witwer. **Democrat:** Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** It's time to put the Peter Manous chairman selection in perspective from Kernan's point of view. It's the governor's prerogative and O'Bannon still has three and a half years to rule. When Joe Andrew was chosen in 1995, Gov. Bayh had Lt. Gov. O'Bannon sign off and they made the announcement together. But that was a year before O'Bannon ran for governor. As 2004 approaches, Kernan would be expected to be brought into party decisions more intimately. **Status:** *Leans D.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: Chris Chocola, State Sen. Thomas Weatherwax. **Democrat:** Jill Long Thompson, Mark Meissner, State Rep. Pat Bauer, State Sen. William Alexa. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, 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:** Bauer takes an \$80,000 administrative job with Ivy Tech, which probably means he won't run for Congress. Democratic Leadership Council Democrats HPR talked with were singing the praises of Meissner. Jill Long Thompson, a member of the DLC, did not attend the two-day conference in Indianapolis. Weatherwax is still pondering. **Status:** *Leans JLT.*

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **Democrat:** Rodney Scott, Jay Rigdon. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **2000 results:** Souder (R) 131,051, Foster (D) 74,492. **2002 Forecast:** Souder raised \$26,640 toward a 2002 re-election campaign that will likely cost \$400,000 or more (Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). A report covering the first six months shows he has about \$22,000 in the bank after paying expenses and sending \$3,000 to other Republican candidates. Souder's donations include only one contribution from a political action committee, usually the life-blood of a campaign because PACs may legally contribute five times the amount individuals may give. Souder raised \$11,000 at his first PAC fund-raiser for the year on Wednesday. Souder's low-dollar financial reports are an oddity among incumbents, most of whom report hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations even in a non-election year. Last year, winning House candidates spent an average of \$847,000; Souder spent \$289,000 and sent \$23,000 of that to other GOP candidates. **Status:** *Safe R.*

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 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:** U.S. Rep. Peter Deutsch of Florida filed the complaint Monday against Buyer, saying he based it on a story in *The New York Times*, which reported Buyer used his position as chairman of the personnel subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee to obtain telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for several members of the military last November. "If that is correct, he violated the law and his position of trust as a member of the U.S. Congress, and sanctions should be made against him," Deutsch said. Buyer denied the allegations Tuesday, describing the newspaper's report as "completely inaccurate. On top of that, you have Mr. Deutsch of Florida, who is a Democrat, and he hasn't gotten over the fact that (former Vice President Al) Gore lost the presidential

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BENJAMIN SUCCESSOR PROSPECTS RAISED: Supporters of a handful of county Democrats are testing the political waters by weighing a run against embattled Lake County Auditor Peter Benjamin. With Benjamin facing numerous legal questions, political operatives in the Democratic Party are betting he will not seek re-election in 2002 and are floating the names of possible successors. Among those being mentioned are Suzette Raggs, Gary deputy mayor; County Recorder Morris Carter; Sam Orlich, a former county auditor; and state Sen. Rose Ann Antich, D-Merrillville (Times of Northwest Indiana).

DRIVER CELLPHONE BAN GETS ATTENTION: State Rep. Jeff Thompson introduced a bill in the last legislative session to prohibit mobile phone use by Indiana motorists, but the bill didn't receive a committee hearing (Abbie VanSickle, *Lafayette Journal and Courier*). Rep. Michael Dvorak, chair of the Committee on Courts and Criminal Code, said he didn't give the bill a hearing because it was "without serious intent." Now both Dvorak and Thompson say they believe the bill to ban cell phone use in vehicles passed in New York recently will make more legislators serious about such legislation.

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INDIANA PRISON POPULATION SOARS; UP 60 PERCENT IN LAST DECADE:

Despite Indiana's efforts at alternative sentencing, the state's prison population jumped 60 percent to 34,676 in the last decade, according to 2000 census figures. In many counties, jail populations have doubled and even tripled since 1990, according to a report in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. National and state experts say the growth can be tracked to America's crack-down on drugs, with a focus on enforcement, longer sentences and more stringent laws for drug offenses. On July 1, 2000, 83 percent of Indiana's adult prison inmates who were convicted of a Class A felony — the most severe — were serving time for a drug offense, said Pam Pattison, Indiana Department of Correction spokeswoman. Of those convicted of a B felony, 98 percent were serving time for drugs. Public pressure to crack down on drugs led to a "knee-jerk reaction," said Allen County Jail Commander Thomas Hathaway. Jailing drug abusers and dealers was not a rational solution, but a rash decision that showed quick results without consideration of long-term effects, like overcrowding, he said. "When you respond with a knee-jerk reaction, you don't see the effects right away," Hathaway said. "Jail is the stop for other programs that have failed."



run," Buyer said. "He filed a frivolous and politically motivated complaint." The *Times*, in a statement, said its Sunday story on the absentee ballots in Florida "reflects balanced and fair reporting that included a range of views and provided a fair context and analysis of the topic." Buyer has said he requested the names of service members whose absentee votes had been thrown out as invalid for technical reasons, such as lack of a postmark. He made the request as Republicans were fighting for votes for George W. Bush during the Florida recount. The *Times* reported that the names were then sent to Republicans in Florida to be used as part of a public relations campaign as they tried to persuade counties to reconsider uncounted ballots from overseas sailors, soldiers and airmen. This morning, *Roll Call* reported that it was Rep. Tillie Fowler, R-Florida, who had requested the names, not Buyer. Horse Race's guess is that this complaint against Buyer will only bolster his political standing with 4th CD Republicans. **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:** Pence appears on CNN's Inside Politics, decrying the 2008 Olympics going to Beijing. Having shored up her political standing with district Democrats, Fox spent time at the DLC conference making money contacts, as she did in Washington last week. **Status:** *Leans R.*

Congressional District 7: Republican: Brose McVey, Marvin Scott, Tony

Samuel. **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:** McVey has raised more than \$44,000 through June 30 with over \$40,000 on hand. McVey launched his campaign just 45 days prior to the deadline. McVey has matched or exceeded previous campaigns in the old 10th district. Carson raised \$48,350 during the same period in 1999. Eventual GOP nominee Marvin Scott raised no funds during the same period in 1999, and 1998 GOP nominee Gary Hofmeister, who filed much earlier than McVey, raised \$47,700, but reported only \$20,020 on hand. The campaign committee includes Devin Anderson, former Chief of Staff to U.S. Rep. David McIntosh and Executive Director of the State GOP who has signed on to serve as Vice Chairman of the campaign, overseeing its tactical aspects. Jim Jay, who managed Marion County Prosecutor Scott Newman's successful 1994 campaign, is overseeing the early development of the campaign operation. Douglas P. Long, who served as Treasurer for former U.S. Senator Dan Coats, will serve in the same capacity for the McVey effort. McVey managed Coats's victorious '92 effort. **Status:** *Leans D.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep.

Baron Hill. **Geography:** Bloomington, Columbus, Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville; Spencer, DuBois, Orange, Crawford, Perry, Harrison, Washington, Jackson, Brown, Jennings, Scott, Floyd, Clark, Jefferson, Switzerland, Ripley, Ohio, and parts of Dearborn and Monroe counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **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 Results:** Hill 125,978, Bailey (R) 101,790, Chambers (L) 4,634. **2002 Forecast:** Jeffersonville businessman Mike Sodrel, 55, who owns and operates a bus line and a trucking company, said Friday he plans to run as a political outsider for the seat held by Baron Hill, a Democrat. "I'm not a career politician, and that's something I plan to exploit," Sodrel said (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). Party leaders describe Sodrel as a hard-working businessman with a common touch. The New Albany native has had business interests in the Jeffersonville-New Albany area for 25 years. Sodrel said his platform for the race is not yet clear. He supported Kevin Kellems in last year's GOP primary, which Michael Bailey won. Hill defeated Bailey in November, with 54 percent of the vote in the 21-county district. Neither Kellems nor Bailey has declared for next year's race. Hill is expected to seek a third term. Sodrel brings vivid business relationships and some personal wealth into this race. We consider him to be a top-tier candidate and expect this to become a competitive race that could receive national attention due to the changing demographics of this district as Republican voters move in from Louisville and Cincinnati. **Status:** *Leans D.*