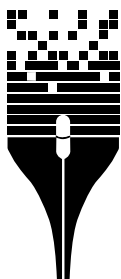


# The Howey Political Report



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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“This is voodoo economics. And they want to do it for one reason only - make political points for this November and for November 2004...” - Mary Dieter, Gov. O’Bannon’s press secretary, on GOP calls for budget cuts.

## Hoosier leadership wallows in a gutter

### No heroes, only midgets at Statehouse

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Lightning streaked the sky last Friday night and rain pounded my hair into an unruly mess as I ran from the Hilbert Circle Theatre to my car parked outside the Statehouse. I had just watched Art Garfunkel sing “*Bridge Over Troubled Water*” with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and then “*Sounds of Silence*.” As I ran by the Statehouse, I noticed the lights shining brightly from Gov. Frank O’Bannon’s second floor office.

It prompted memories of Gov. Otis Bowen’s brilliant 1976 campaign TV ad, the camera peering from the dark into the brightly lighted office, with Doc Bowen toiling behind his desk. It was nothing but a momentary dream from a faraway era, when leaders really led, intractable problems were solved, and gigantic deeds were achieved. I wondered if Gov. O’Bannon was in his office that rainy night, working. Instead, I figured the custodians were probably sweeping the carpets of crumbs.

**The Statehouse**, beginning some 20 hours before, was no home to giants with achievements these days. Instead, it became the backdrop of fear and tepidness. The leaders became recalcitrant midgets in tantrum, pointing lazy fingers and babbling acrimonious rantings, charges and counter-charges. It was a place where virtually no one stood tall, and Hoosiers watched their government not working toward solutions, but reduced to an acrid blame game, eyes bulging with rage and conspiracy, mouths nothing more than belching smudge pots of rhetoric that strike normal Hoosiers as insipid, disingenuous and scornful, as opposed to actions that deserve praise.

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# TICKER

## T A P E

**LUGAR VOTES FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM:** The U.S. Senate concluded debate yesterday on a campaign finance reform bill and sent it to President Bush on a 60-40 vote. It is anticipated that he will sign the bill into law. "The compromise bill before us will not bring an end to corruption or attempts to influence politicians improperly. We should be skeptical of both extravagant claims of success and dire predictions of disaster. Although, I do not support every provision of this bill, on balance, I believe that it is a constructive attempt to improve a deeply flawed campaign finance system," U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar (R-IN) said. "I have been involved in elections for the school board, for mayor of a major city, for the U.S. Senate, and for the Republican presidential nomination. My experiences suggest that our present system is outdated and often distorted. Yet I have never believed that we should pass a bill just because it has been labeled 'reform.'"

**BAYH VOTES YES:** - U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh voted 'Yes' as the Senate passed bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation that will ban unregulated soft-money donations from corporations, unions and individuals. The McCain-Feingold

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There are no heroes at the Indiana Statehouse these days.

The week that followed the historic meltdown over tax restructuring was simple confirmation of a government not up to the task of leading.

The reaction from around the state was predictable. The Hoosier mayors, both Democrats and Republicans who will be first to face a looming tax revolt, were unanimous in their disgust. "They need to get back to work and do their jobs like the rest of us have to do," Democratic West Lafayette Mayor Sonya Margerum said. Lafayette's Republican Mayor Dave Heath, added, "I can tell you right now that we are shut off from bringing new companies here." Gary Mayor Scott King said, "Frankly, if there was any legal way to secede from the state, I would seriously consider it. There was a wholesale failure in our state capital to do what had to be done."

**East Chicago Mayor** Robert Pastrick, a Democrat, agreed. "This is an absolute disaster," he said. "Everyone – Republicans, Democrats, businesses, the private sector – agreed that the reforms would be the best thing for us....obviously, the state legislature wasn't listening."

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson was "disappointed" and hoped that after a cooling off period, Gov. O'Bannon would call a special session.

O'Bannon, however, was still hesitant. After a fist-pounding exhibition last Thursday, O'Bannon instead vetoed three spending bills on Monday, including one to compile the history of the legislature, and then he corralled \$247 million of the Build Indiana Funds on Wednesday.

"I know BIF projects have done a lot of good in local communities, and BIF has provided much needed cash for state-wide projects that otherwise might have languished," O'Bannon said. "But with a budget shortfall of the magnitude that Indiana faces -- and no legislative solution in sight -- something has to go."

Meanwhile, the one man most responsible for this low drama of midgits, Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton, said he would not be surprised if O'Bannon used a special session to get his way. "He can break us," Garton whined, because lawmakers would be forced to leave their jobs and families to return to Indianapolis to work. "For him to threaten (a special session) really bothers me. It's just too bad" (*Louisville Courier-Journal*).

On Tuesday, Garton did a five-city fly-around with Republican Chairman Jim Kittle and House Minority Leader Brian Bosma, suggesting budget cuts that only Kittle had articulated when the legislature was in session.

"Hoosiers are being misled by the governor and Joe Kernan," Kittle stated. "It would be wrong -- dead wrong -- for the governor to cut teacher jobs just so he could avoid having to tighten the belt on state government spending. Education should be the last place the governor looks for budget reductions, not the first."

Garton, who was targeting the governor's airplane again, added, "Republicans are here to reassure Hoosier taxpayers: the midst of Indiana's worst recession in more than 10 years is not the time to raise state taxes to mask a disturbing pattern of fiscal mismanagement."

**O'Bannon's press secretary** Mary Dieter was livid, telling Terry Burns of the *Times of Northwest Indiana*, "For months, they were saying to the governor, 'Cut, cut, cut. They wouldn't say where. Suddenly, they don't want to cut, even though he told them exactly what was going to happen. The most horrifying part of it all is that they know this. This is voodoo economics. And they want to do it for one reason only -- make political points for this November and for November 2004."

Some how, no one seemed reassured that anything constructive could happen at the Indiana Statehouse. House Speaker John Gregg tried to connect the dots of disaster, telling Leslie Stedman of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* that the Hoosier people had been "disconnected" from reality.

"We spent six years telling everybody the economy was great in Indiana. And then it just literally turned. The question is: Where'd all the money go? Well, it was spent," Gregg said.

Gregg's message was the antithesis of Garton's cynical reassurance. "It's going to take pink slips. It's going to take reduced park hours. It's going to take can-

cellations of some state highway building contracts. It's going to take some shortage of state policemen not working before Hoosiers say we've got a problem. Then they've got to decide: Do we cut more or do we raise taxes?"

Gregg said in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, "Every vote these people cast out there they think can defeat them in an election. It's high stakes politically." Senate Republicans essentially rebuffed a proposal late Wednesday night, and never offered an alternative the next day. "I've never seen anyone quit the day before," Gregg said. "They didn't negotiate to the end."

Why?

Rep. Mike Smith blamed O'Bannon for allowing an out-of-whack budget. "He let the budget become law that put us in this position," said Smith, R-Rensselaer (Niki Kelly, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "I acknowledge," said Sen. Becky Skillman, R-Bedford, "that many Republicans believe we are put on the face of the earth to stop tax increases."

Gov. O'Bannon said that he was doing all he could to minimize cuts that will affect K-12 and university classrooms. He acknowledged that some of the cuts were contrary to his and Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan's mission to diversify Indiana's economy by attracting more high-tech, research and development jobs.

**O'Bannon's office** noted that the governor "does not exclude calling the legislature back to the Statehouse for a special session. But he said he cannot force reticent lawmakers to work if they are not predisposed to do so, and he has seen no evidence that enough lawmakers are." If that changes, O'Bannon said, he is willing to work with them.

All this reminded me of President Reagan biographer Edmund Morris, who wrote, "History admires the wise; it elevates the brave."

In this chapter of Indiana history, our gutless leaders are all wallowing in the gutter. ❖

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bill passed the Senate Wednesday by a vote of 60-40. Supporters of campaign finance reform have been working for years to pass the bill. "Today the U.S. Senate took an important step toward restoring the confidence of the American people in our democracy," Bayh said. "The overwhelming feeling among too many Americans is that their vote simply doesn't matter because there are big special interests that have too much say in the formation of public policy. We recently had the closest presidential election in our nation's history, and barely half of eligible voters felt connected enough to our democracy to take the time to vote. Campaign finance reform was the first legislation I sponsored after being sworn into the Senate, because I believe we need to bring Americans back into the fold of our democracy by showing them that their votes matter more than money. This is an important first step in that effort."

**LUGAR SEEKS EXPANSION OF ANTI-NUKE PROGRAM:** U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar introduced legislation Monday that would extend for the first time the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program outside the former Soviet Union. Lugar said this bill would be a "vital component" of the

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U.S. national security strategy in the wake of the September 11 attacks. "The problem we face today is not just terrorism. It is the nexus between terrorists and weapons of mass destruction. There is little doubt that Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda would have used weapons of mass destruction if they had possessed them. It is equally clear that they have made an effort to obtain them," he said. "Despite the tremendous progress realized by the Nunn-Lugar program in the former Soviet Union, the United States continues to lack even minimal international confidence about many foreign weapons programs. In most cases, there is little or no information regarding the number of weapons or amounts of materials a country may have produced, the storage procedures they employ to safeguard their weapons, or plans regarding further production or destruction programs. We must pay much more attention to making certain that all weapons and materials of mass destruction are identified, continuously guarded, and systematically destroyed."

**GOLDSMITH URGES CIVIC SWITCHBOARD:** Stephen Goldsmith, a Bush adviser who works with John Bridgeland and Leslie Lenkowsky on the president's Bush's new USA

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## 2nd CD Democrats hew traditional themes

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.

WASHINGTON -- In the new 2nd CD Democratic primary, candidates are running on traditional turf -- labor issues and Social Security -- as they try to separate from the field.

Former Rep. Jill Long Thompson (4th CD) and State Sen. William Alexa are engaged in a pitched battle for support from organized labor. Long Thompson is touting an endorsement from the United Auto Workers and contributions from several unions. Alexa is working to secure backing from the Indiana AFL-CIO and has hired the former president of the union, Chuck Deppert, as his campaign manager. Mark Meissner, a former aide to Sen. Evan Bayh, is applying a grass-roots approach, visiting labor union halls around the district. The new 2nd CD includes labor strongholds such as South Bend, Kokomo and Michigan City.

In a recent visit to Washington, Long Thompson recited a list of donations from unions -- in exact amounts. "I'm the only candidate to receive financial support from organized labor," she said.

Alexa cites an AFL-CIO voting record chart that puts his support for labor at 92 percent, based on issues before the state legislature and Long Thompson's at 72 percent, based on votes in Congress when she represented the 4th CD from 1989 through 1994. "Labor is all over the place," he said. "Some support Jill, some support me, some support both of us."

Meissner doesn't think that union leadership should endorse any primary candidate. "We ought to all have a shot to make our pitch to the unions," he said. He has conducted about 15 labor hall events. "In almost every case, I'm the only candidate who has done that. The rank and file members will make up their own minds."

### Steel Tariffs

One issue union members are following closely is the fate of the steel

industry. In early March, National Steel Corp. of Mishawaka filed for bankruptcy, becoming the 32nd domestic steel maker to do so. In 2001, the company lost \$652 million and cut 1,000 jobs. On March 6, President Bush imposed tariffs of up to 30 percent in 10 categories of steel imports over three years to battle alleged steel dumping by foreign manufacturers and help the U.S. industry recover. He also was trying to strengthen his political base in the industrial belt.

Long Thompson said the move fell short. "The administration's current proposal does not do enough to protect American steel companies," she said. She supports a 40 percent tariff over four years on all steel imports. Alexa welcomed Bush's decision. "I'm glad that President Bush did this," he said. "It should have been done a long time ago." He sponsored a state Senate resolution in 1999 urging President Clinton to protect the domestic steel industry from foreign producers who allegedly sold steel in the U.S. market below cost. "No one in that administration was clamoring for this," he said. "And Jill Long was part of that administration." At the time, Long Thompson was an undersecretary of agriculture. Alexa has been in the state Senate since 1988.

The battle for labor will not occur exclusively on the Democratic side. Chris Chocola, the likely Republican candidate and the 2000 GOP nominee in the 3rd CD race against retiring incumbent Rep. Tim Roemer, is chairman of a farm equipment manufacturing firm in the district. Some of the company's 1,300 employees belong to unions. "We have a good working relationship with them," he said. He said his labor relations experience will help him appeal to union voters. "You can talk about certain things, but when you've done them, it's more relevant."

That doesn't mean that Chocola

supports the steel tariffs. "That's a difficult issue," he said. "Our business uses a lot of steel. If there's an increase in steel prices, that would impact our business and the farm economy because (farmers) are our customers. I think we have a fundamental overproduction of steel in the United States that needs to be addressed. It's a bigger question than just whether we have tariffs."

## Social Security

In addition to labor issues, the Democrat to emerge from the May 7 primary also is likely to go after Chocola on the issue of Social Security reform. "We're very optimistic about the seat," said Kim Rubey, spokeswoman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "Chocola is very vulnerable. His support of privatization of Social Security will be a huge issue in the race."

Long Thompson, Alexa and Meissner oppose investing Social Security payroll taxes in the stock market. Long Thompson criticized Chocola for an endorsement he received from the Club for Growth, a conservative organization based in Washington. "That could reflect a difference in values with regard to Social Security," she said

The stock market decline since 2000 gives Alexa pause. "I would be completely against privatizing (Social Security)." If some funds had been in the market over the past two years, "we would have wiped out tons and tons of people."

Meissner stresses that Social Security will be solvent until 2028. He said that "politicians in Washington should keep their hands off that surplus," and find ways to encourage people to increase their savings.

"In every competitive congressional race in the country, you're going to see the Democrats characterize the Republicans as wanting to steal old peoples' money," said Chocola. "We have to make sure that we guarantee benefits to people

who are about to go onto Social Security."

Over the next year, he said that reforms should be considered, including giving workers the option to invest a portion of their Social Security funds in the stock market or in government-backed securities. The worst option is to do nothing, he said. "The only way the current system can stay in place is to cut benefits or raise taxes," Chocola said. He said Democrats are scaring senior citizens. "You can say what you're against, but what are you for?"

## Democratic Horse Race

But before Chocola can be taken on, the Democrats have to select their nominee. Jill Long Thompson leads in fundraising with \$121,230 cash on hand, according to the most recent Federal Election Commission filing. Alexa had \$36,483 on hand. Meissner did not file a report. Long Thompson said that the primary will likely cost between \$300,000 and \$350,000. She plans to go up on television before May 7, with her eyes on the fall as much as her Democratic opponents. "I want to come out of the primary strong," she said. A Democratic source in Washington said Long Thompson is emerging as the front-runner.

Alexa, who said he is on track to raise \$200,000 for the primary, is focusing on radio, direct mail and direct voter contact. He said that the biggest challenge is "reaching the people who are going to vote."

For Meissner, 32, the obstacle is to take on two established politicians who are in a better position to raise money. "You might be surprise how little money it takes to win the primary if you target correctly," he said. His campaign has identified likely Democratic voters and then concentrated on grass-roots activity, like knocking on 6,000 doors. "We're doing the old-fashioned style of campaigning, which is going to give us a chance to win," he said. ❖

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Freedom Corps initiative, said the goal is to do just that: create "a civic switchboard connecting people with opportunities" (Dana Milbank, Washington Post) To begin with, the Bush aides have been talking with the Census Bureau about ways to measure volunteer service, to gauge their success. Beyond that, Goldsmith said, "we really need to come up with a long-term strategy."

MOSES SAYS IT WILL BE TOUGH TO ELECT FORT WAYNE DEMOCRATIC MAYOR: Almost immediately after word spread last week that part of Aboite Township would be annexed into Fort Wayne, one insider summed up what might be the political ramifications of the move. "The mayor just annexed 23,000 Republicans," she said (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "I wonder what that'll do to his re-election campaign." Considering that Republicans missed electing a GOP mayor by just 129 votes in 1999, it's probably good for Democrats that Aboite residents won't be voting in a city election until 2006, three years after the 2003 mayoral election. "The Aboite annexation will increase the difficulty of electing a Democrat mayor in the future," said Rep. Win Moses, D-Fort Wayne. "There's no doubt." While

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not all 23,000 new residents are Republicans, the section of Aboite Township being annexed proved to be a Republican stronghold in the 2000 general election, when 69 percent of voters favored Republican George W. Bush over Democrat Al Gore.

**CALL GOVERNOR, PORTER RESIDENTS TOLD:** State Reps. Ralph Ayers, R-Chesterton, and Duane Cheney, D-Portage, showed up at a Duneland School Board meeting Monday evening and told the crowd that if they want Gov. Frank O'Bannon to sign the \$28 million loan to Porter County they should contact him immediately (Deborah Werner, Times of Northwest Indiana). The loan bill was due on the governor's desk Tuesday and he has seven days to sign it. The bill would provide Duneland schools with up to \$13 million in operating money. If the money isn't in the bank by June 17, summer school might be canceled.

**LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOLS MAY CUT SUMMER SCHOOL:** Lake Central's summer school program could be among the first wave of possible education cutbacks as the ripples of last week's legislative stalemate swell across the state. "This may just be the beginning and the tip of the iceberg," said Superintendent

# Indiana 2002 Racing Form

**Governor 2004: Republican:** David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke

Kenley, Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller. **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:** Eric Miller emerged from the thudding Indiana General Assembly in the best shape of those associated with it. He told supporters that Advance America helped stave off expanded gambling and the taxation of churches and charities. Miller also touted increased penalties for possession of child pornography. Sens. Clark and Kenley didn't fare so well. Both of their speeches on the Senate floor when tax restructuring passed were deemed unremarkable by many Statehouse observers. Kenley's call for more study on tax restructuring brought derisive hoots from not only Democrats, but fellow

## HORSE RACE

Republicans as well. McIntosh was able to play to his base by opposing any tax increases, yet escape without playing any conspicuous role in the meltdown. As we analyzed last week, Kernan's grades are mixed. He started off the process with a credible tax restructuring plan, then watched as the state's economic development efforts were skewered. As head of the Commerce Department, those dings will not go unnoticed in two years. While Kernan played a largely background role throughout restructuring's course through the legislature, many believe the LG had to play the loyal lieutenant to a popular but equivocating governor. Kernan began the damage control this week, appearing with Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson to announce a Dow AgroSciences expansion in Indianapolis. **Status:** TOSSUP.

**Secretary of State 2002: Republican:** Mike Delph, Deputy Secretary of State

Todd Rokita, Richard Mourdock, Dr. John McGoff. **Democrat:** Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez. **Libertarian:** Paul Hager. **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:** Benson's withdrawal ended a curious political chapter in Hoosier Republican politics and leaves the race literally up for grabs. Horse Race was amazed at the number of establishment Republicans who embraced Benson, a nice guy with a great sports resume, but who was untested politically and brought in some real liabilities. We're not sure if we were witnessing an insatiable desire to win something big, or whether the Indiana GOP is developing a tin ear that has been so evident in recent gubernatorial races. Fernandez really wanted Benson to be the nominee. So what do we have left? Four promising young Republicans, none with a clear advantage. Of the four, Mourdock offers the most government experience, is ballot tested, draws his primary political strength from southwestern Indiana, and has a good rapport with the news media. Mourdock's chief liability is getting known in the northern two thirds of the state. Rokita has some big hitters pushing his candidacy, has done a decent job raising money, has support in Marion and Lake counties, and he pushes his familiarity with the SOS office. At this point, he might be a slight favorite. Delph is a likeable, earnest guy who brings the political heft of the Burton organization that brings strength from Johnson County, through Indy, and now up into the Wabash Valley where the new 5th CD lies. McGoff brings nice professional credentials, has won in Marion County where he serves as coroner, though that has rarely been a good platform to start a political career. The universe is small when it comes to courting the 2,000 or so Republican convention delegates. At this point, the winner will be the one who can muster up the most political leverage and build coalitions. **Status:** Toss-up.

**Congressional District 3: Republican:** U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, Paul Helmke,

William Larsen. **Democrat:** 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:** The *Rothenberg Political Report* presented a lengthy analysis of this race and pointed out, "It is clear that the primary race will boil down to ideology, with Souder consistently labeling Helmke as a liberal, and Helmke countering that Souder is too conservative and out of touch

with the district. The ability of each candidate to drive home those sentiments should be the key to winning the primary." Souder is currently rotating about four radio ads that proclaim Helmke to be a liberal who supported President Clinton's tax increase, the Brady Bill, and that he has not "gone Washington" because his family lives in Fort Wayne. The RPR also reports, "The NRA will intervene on Souder's behalf if Helmke is able to muster a significant campaign." The NRA is describing the race as a classic "good versus evil." Rothenberg sums up its report, saying, "If Helmke is able to raise some money, the primary could be relatively close due to little difference in name ID and his popularity as mayor. But at this point, Souder is the clear favorite to retain his seat." Helmke announced only last week that he was opening up a campaign HQ, nearly three weeks after his announcement. Then there is Fort Wayne annexation that may have hurt Helmke's chances. "It's been controversial and it'll be something raised against me politically but it's the right thing to do," Helmke said (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "I'm not sure how it's going to play out." In 1998 voters clearly held the annexation against Helmke in his bid for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate. Vote totals from precincts in the Aboite section being annexed showed Helmke finished second to challenger Peter Rusthoven. Helmke won in the soon-to-be annexed areas northwest, north, northeast and east of the city limits. Time appears to be a Helmke enemy. He's going to have to go up on TV and radio soon in order to counter Souder's strong use of radio. Debates are pending and they may be crucial to the outcome. For the time being, HPR agrees with Rothenberg, this is Souder's race to lose. Having said that, Souder has reacted emotionally to the challenge and if he overplays his hand, it could allow Helmke to tighten up the race.

**Primary Status:** *Leans Souder.*

**Congressional District 4: Republican:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, U.S. Rep. Brian

Kerns, State Sen. Mike Young, Thomas Herr, Tim Baynard, Bob Smith. **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:** News the White House is reassessing its nuclear weapon strategy gives credence to HPR's analysis that Buyer was floating a trial balloon for President Bush last fall prior to the U.S. victory in Afghanistan. The *Wall Street Journal* mentioned the infamous Kerns "witnessing" of the terrorist assault on the Pentagon. The end of the legislature will free up Sen. Young to hit the ground, though he may end up having to defend the meltdown of the tax restructuring plan in the Senate. This has been a very, very strange race that doesn't appear to be as active as the other contested primaries in the 2nd and 3rd CDs. We still believe that Buyer is the strong favorite. **Primary Status:** *Likely Buyer.*

**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) 19,070. **2002 Forecast:** Congressional Quarterly ranked the 59 competitive House races and four of them are in Indiana, including the 6th. UAW endorsed Fox. Maggie Kernan will host an Anderson fundraiser for Fox. **Status:** *Leans Pence.*

**Congressional District 7: Republican:** Brose McVey, Jack Reynolds.

**Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Bob Hidalgo. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002**

**Forecast:** The political arm of the House Republicans has committed to giving McVey the maximum financial assistance in coordinated expenditures: about \$67,500 (Maureen Groppe, Indianapolis Star). McVey is one of only a handful of Republican challengers around the country and the only one in Indiana so far who can count on that assistance, although the National Republican Congressional Committee said other challengers from Indiana could still get its full support. McVey is also one of fewer than 10 GOP challengers around the country whom the NRCC is encouraging political action committees to help. **Status:** *Leans Carson.* ❖

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Janet Emerick (Times of Northwest Indiana). "We're trying our hardest to keep our scheduled programs intact, but every day we get a new surprise, things we didn't think would ever happen."

**EVANSVILLE LEGISLATORS BELIEVE USI SHORT**

**CHANGED:** Some Evansville lawmakers believe legislative leaders exerted their power last week to protect universities in their back yards - and in doing so, shortchanged the University of Southern Indiana. "All legislators are created equal, but I guess some are more equal than others," said Rep. Dennis Avery, D-Evansville (Tim Starks, Evansville Courier & Press). Senate Bill 501 started out as a bill to help pay \$25 million in leases for a Columbus Learning Center in the district of Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton, R-Columbus. But when the bill got over to the House, Avery added \$29 million in bonding authority for library expansion and renovation at USI. On Thursday night, the last day of the session, Avery and House Speaker John Gregg, D-Sandborn, said Garton insisted that USI come out of the bill. Neither Avery nor USI lobbyist Cindy Brinker would go into the specifics about what Garton said, but Avery characterized Garton's words as "intimidating" and "to the point" in a conversa-

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tion Brinker related to him. Gregg's support was necessary for SB 501 to pass. It included \$25 million in bonding for three buildings at Vincennes University, Gregg's alma mater, and in his home county of Knox. He backed away, however, from requiring that USI stay in the bill, and all four conferees plus Garton pledged their support for the USI library project next year.

**WHITHER ANDERSEN?:** The Indiana Department of Local Government Finance still hasn't made a decision as to whether the Arthur Andersen accounting firm will manage Lake County's property reassessment (Rich James, Gary Post-Tribune). Department spokesman Mark Webb said, "There is no change. We are looking at things right now." Last week the state said it was looking at replacing Andersen as the general contractor for the \$25 million project. Webb said there is no timetable for making a decision. Lake County is objecting to the price tag and threatening to sue if the contract isn't renegotiated.



# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Mary Beth Schneider, Indianapolis Star** - Thursday morning, even though 15 hours remained before the legislature's midnight deadline to adjourn, House Bill 1004 was an ex-bill. In fact, it was already stone cold and had been for hours, maybe days. It's hard to pinpoint the exact time of death. But the epitaph was written Thursday morning by Senate Republicans, who said they were rejecting the compromise House Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, had sent them the day before. And, no, they weren't going to make an offer of their own. But the day before -- Wednesday, the second-to-the-last day of the session -- there were plenty of signs that what the legislature had here was a dead parrot. Indiana Manufacturers Association President Pat Kiely is a former GOP legislator. He knows what the legislature looks like when fiscal leaders are trying to put together a tax or budget plan. He knows first-hand the late hours and the meetings behind closed doors with the number-crunchers. So does Indiana Chamber of Commerce President Kevin Brinegar, who used to be the Senate GOP's fiscal analyst. Both Brinegar and Kiely had urged the legislature to act this year to fix a tax system that other states view as an economic development opportunity -- for them. Wednesday night, they came back to the Statehouse, hoping to be around to help as the compromise that would solve this crisis was being worked out. Virtually no one was there. And they knew they had a dead parrot. ❖

**Leo Morris, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel** - Gov. Frank O'Bannon is right to be upset that the General Assembly ended without doing anything about balancing the state budget and restructuring Indiana's taxes. His administration gave legislators fair warning months ago that this was all coming. And Lt. Gov. Joe

Kernan came up with a comprehensive proposal that should at least have been a good starting point for excellent legislation. In giving voice to his chagrin, the governor misses the mark, though. For one thing, he reserves his ire for Republicans who control the Senate, letting the House majority Democrats off the hook. His partisanship is understandable - but as unwelcome as the partisanship that kept the General Assembly from acting in the first place. Everybody connected with this mess deserves a share of the blame. It's time to call a special session of the General Assembly and not let legislators go home until they get the work done. Tackling budgetary issues is basic stuff for lawmakers, and they shouldn't be allowed to get away with ducking that responsibility.

**Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette** - The number of Allen County Democrats who walk into their polling places on primary election day and ask for a Republican ballot is large enough to count but small enough to affect the outcome of an election. Yet, according to Rep. Mark Souder, the idea of massive crossover voting in the May 7 primary is all the buzz in Allen County - at least in some quarters. "That isn't to say it's a lot," he said of the speculation. "But among politically active people, it's high." The reason: Souder is looking at his toughest race since beating Rep. Jill Long in 1994. This time, however, Souder's opponent is a Republican. Given the strong Republican cast to northeast Indiana's congressional district, the people who decide whether Souder keeps his job or is shown the door almost surely will be the ones who vote in the GOP primary. As far as Helmke is concerned, however, the Republican primary is a decision about the Republican Party made by members of the Republican Party. "I'm not going after Democratic voters," he said. ❖