



GOP at Bush's precipice?

Hill, Ellsworth poll leads

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - As we absorb the WISH-TV poll released last night and conducted Sept. 5-8 showing U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel trailing Democrat Baron Hill 46-40 percent, and U.S. Rep. John Hostettler behind Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth 44-40 percent, consider the leading paragraphs in the March 13, 2003, edition of **The Howey Political Report**, as the nation prepared for war in Iraq:

"This is brinkmanship on an epic scale. Within the next month there could possibly be, as REM might say, the end of the world as we know it. President George W. Bush is taking a huge, calculated gamble, leading the nation into a war a majority of Americans appear to believe is morally correct. The danger lies in its execution, the retribution of our enemies, and the impact on an economy. If the war concludes quickly, with few U.S. casualties, conclusive proof arises that Sad-

dam maintained weapons of mass destruction ... and our forces are greeted as liberators, Bush will emerge extremely strong.

A prolonged military campaign with significant casualties will quickly fire up anxiety. That would be a long tightrope to walk. Should a military campaign conclude quickly, the American military might find itself as an occupier in a fractious country with no experience as a democratic society. Terror attacks and casualties during an occupation and spreading unrest through Europe and the Middle East could have a distinct and decisive domestic political impact. If this sounds like doom and gloom, President Bush has boldly decided to walk the precipice, believing he had no choice."

* * *

In an attempt to save his party from mid-term retribution, President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick



See page 3

The NRCC's Hostettler bind

By JOSHUA CLAYBOURN

EVANSVILLE - There's a growing consensus among political pundits that Republicans will suffer in this year's mid-term elections. Even the solidly red state of Indiana is up for grabs. As Indiana's chief political guru Brian Howey put it, "U.S. Reps. Chris Chocola, Mike Sodrel and John Hostettler are in deep trouble over the war, now being



"You can order the butter now, because with the polls I've seen, both Hostettler and Woodruff are toast."

- Former House Speaker John Gregg



recast by President Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld as a battle against 'Islamic fascism.'"

Their plight isn't unique; the war in Iraq threatens to undermine the campaigns of numerous Republican congressional candidates across the country. What makes these three unique is that none of them voted for the Iraq war in October of 2002, yet it threatens to unseat them anyway. Hostettler flatly voted against it, and Reps. Chocola and Sodrel had not yet been elected. How, then, could they let themselves get caught up in its negative aftermath?

Certainly voter ignorance is partly to blame. Anyone with an "R" after their name is assumed to have supported the initial decision to go in and, to a lesser degree, is assumed to support President Bush's style of leadership. But neither of these portrayals is always fair, particularly for John Hostettler. Hostettler follows his own line and consistently bucks the wishes of the national party.

Following his "no" vote on the war in Iraq, Vice President Cheney cancelled a planned fundraiser in the 8th district. Hostettler has often voted against large Republican spending bills, including a Hurricane Katrina relief package. While Chocola and Sodrel are typically more likely to agree with President Bush, they're by no means a carbon copy either.

Clearly Hostettler and others like him throughout the country stand to gain, politically speaking, by separating themselves from President Bush and highlighting their independent track record. But this task will prove particularly difficult for Hostettler. As of the July 15 reporting deadline, he had only \$195,146 on hand, while challenger Brad Ellsworth had over three times that amount.

Hostettler is therefore forced to rely on the National Republican

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Congressional Committee (NRCC) for help, and there's little chance the national party will spend money praising a candidate's independence from the very hand that's feeding it.



U.S. Rep. John Hostettler talks to constituents in Vincennes.

The NRCC and its candidates are ultimately left in a bind - either highlight candidate independence, implicitly criticizing the national party, or risk losing control of the House. If a recent **Washington Post** story is

any indication, the NRCC may simply choose a third option and go negative. The Post reports the NRCC enlisted veteran party strategist Terry Nelson to "run a campaign that will coordinate with Senate Republicans on ads that similarly will rely on the best of the worst that researchers have dug up on Democrats."

That's a gamble, given that such bickering is partly to blame for the Republican poll drop already. But with plans to spend more than \$50 million on advertising (a midterm election record), the Republicans aren't backing down without a fight. But for the investment to pay off, the NRCC's best efforts may be spent on helping candidates portray an independent, outside-the-beltway image. ❖

Claybourn is an HPR columnist and a recent graduate of the IU School of Law. He will practice law in Evansville after climbing Mount Kilimanjaro last month.



Cheney made a conspicuous case around the Sept. 11 fifth anniversary, attempting to fold the debacle in Iraq into the patriotic War on Terror. The results of this public relations effort will have a profound impact on Indiana politics where three congressional seats held by U.S. Reps. Chris Chocola, Mike Sodrel and John Hostettler are slipping away from Republicans, along with control of the U.S. and Indiana Houses of Representatives.

It could be a week or more before enough polls taken after the Sept. 11 observances gauge the reaction and whether it will improve dire GOP prospects, but there has been an initial uptick in the President's numbers.

Three polls already stand out. One is the Hill-Sodrel and Ellsworth/Hostettler numbers where the incumbents trail near the error margin. The other component of the WISH-TV poll shows Marion County Democrat Melina Kennedy leading Prosecutor Carl Brizzi 43-42 percent. "Melina has only been up on TV for a week this month," said Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy. "Her name ID isn't that high. This is evidence of a nationalized election."



And there was the CNN poll released on Sept. 11, asking whether people blame the Bush administration for the 9/11 attacks, 45 percent said either a "great deal" or a "moderate amount," up from 32 percent in a June 2002 CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll.

Bush, at the heeding of legendary political strategist Karl Rove, was attempting to further nationalize the War on Terror, where he has held an advantage, along with the Iraq war, contrasting with some Republicans who are seeking to localize their Congressional races, as Chocola and Sodrel are trying to do. Hostettler has continued to nationalize his race with the immigration issue.

"The war against this enemy is more than a military conflict," Bush said in his Sept. 11 address to the nation. "It is the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st Century, and the calling of our generation. On Sept. 11th, we learned that America must confront threats before they reach our shores, whether those threats come from terrorist networks or terrorist states. I'm often asked why we're in Iraq when Saddam Hussein was not responsible for the 9/11 attacks. The answer is that the regime of Saddam Hussein was a clear threat."

Bush said, "Al Qaeda and other extremists from across the world have come to Iraq to stop the rise of a free society in the heart of the Middle East. They have joined the remnants of Saddam's regime and other armed groups to foment sectarian violence and drive us out. Our

enemies in Iraq are tough and they are committed -- but so are Iraqi and coalition forces. We're adapting to stay ahead of the enemy, and we are carrying out a clear plan to ensure that a democratic Iraq succeeds. We will not leave until this work is done."

Bush added, "Whatever mistakes have been made in Iraq, the worst mistake would be to think that if we pulled out, the terrorists would leave us alone. They will not leave us alone. They will follow us."

Cheney: We'd do exactly the same thing

Sunday on NBC's **Meet the Press**, Vice President Dick Cheney said, "I think there is no question but that we did not anticipate an insurgency that would last this long. It's still difficult. Obviously, major, major work to do is ahead of us. But the fact is, the world is better off today with Saddam Hussein out of power. Think where we'd be if he was still there."

Then, incredibly, Cheney said, "It was the right thing to do and if we had to do it over again we would do exactly the same thing."

Devlin Report: al-Anbar is lost

On Sept. 11 in a page one story, **Washington Post** reporter Thomas E. Ricks reported the al-Anbar province -- which borders Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria -- is all but lost politically, and probably militarily. "The officials described Col. Pete Devlin's classified assessment of the dire state of Anbar as the first time that a senior U.S. military officer has filed so negative a report from Iraq," Ricks reported. "One Army officer summarized it as arguing that in Anbar province, "We haven't been defeated militarily but we have been defeated politically -- and that's where wars are won and lost."

Devlin reports that there are no functioning Iraqi government institutions in Anbar, leaving a vacuum that has been filled by the insurgent group al-Qaeda in Iraq, which has become the province's most significant political force, said the Army officer, who has read the report. Another person familiar with the report said it describes Anbar as





beyond repair; a third said it concludes that the United States has lost in Anbar.

Devlin, a leading Marine intelligence analyst who has been on the ground in Iraq since February, offers a series of reasons for the situation, including a lack of U.S. and Iraqi troops, a problem that has dogged commanders since the fall of Baghdad more than three years ago. He reported that not only are military operations facing a stalemate, unable to extend and sustain security beyond the perimeters of their bases, but also local governments in the province have collapsed and the weak central government has almost no presence.

Poll shows Hoosiers turning against war

In a WISH-TV poll released on Tuesday and taken Sept. 5-8 in the midst of the Bush-Cheney issue campaign, 49 percent of Hoosiers did not support the Iraq war, while 41 percent supported it and 10 percent were undecided. That split, however, was much closer in two southern Indiana congressional districts that are among the closest watched in the nation.

In the 8th District, the poll found a 45 percent to 45 percent split on support for the war, with 10 percent undecided. The poll results for the 9th District, showed 46 percent opposing the war, while 43 percent supported it and 11 percent undecided. Statewide, the poll found a wide gap in views about the war based on gender and political affiliation: A majority, 51 percent, of women opposed the war, with 36 percent supporting. Among men, 47 percent opposed the war, with 46 percent supporting it. Those who said they were Republicans supported the war by a 65 percent to 27 percent margin. Among Democrats, 76 percent were against the war, with 13 percent supporting. Those who said they were independents or of other political parties opposed the war 53 percent to 35 percent. Hoosiers showed no consensus on whether American troops should be withdrawn from Iraq, with 39 percent saying keep the troop levels steady, 33 percent backing a start to troop withdrawal, 11 percent wanting immediate troop withdrawal, and 9 percent saying increase the U.S. military force.



President Bush in Shanksville, Pa., observing services for Flight 93 which crashed there on Sept. 11, 2001. Bush's speech that night drew criticism from Democrats for "politicizing" 9/11, but new polling shows an uptick in support for the GOP on the terrorism issue. (White House Photo)

An **NBC-Wall Street Journal** poll conducted Sept. 8-11 and released today showed Bush with a 42 percent approval, up from 38 percent in July. NBC's Tim Russert: "The Iraq war, let's look at this. The President's approval is up 3% [at 38%]. That is a gain of three points since our last poll in July where it was 35%. A series of speeches, the commemorative events of September 11th seemed to have helped the President in a modest way." On the generic ballot, "the Democrats still have a nine-point spread [48%-39%], but we are still eight weeks away."

The **Wall Street Journal** reported today that Bush's "efforts to explain and win support for his policies on Iraq and terrorism appear to be paying some initial dividends as midterm congressional campaigns heat up." But Bush's approval increase "remains 'a modest uptick' in 'a very difficult national environment' for the president's party in midterm elections, cautions Republican pollster Bill Mc-

Inturff. The president's approval rating remains weak at 42%, though it is improved from 38% in June. A 54% majority of voters continues to say the U.S. is headed in the wrong direction." Still, the poll results "suggest Mr. Bush retains some ability to shape the context of the election to his party's benefit."

On the issue of terrorism, Republicans now lead Democrats by 48 percent to 41 percent among registered voters in a new **ABC News** poll, a flip from a 7-point Democrat advantage in the same poll last month, and 16 percent now choose terrorism as their top voting issue -- a gain of five percentage points."

Cook House at 'tipping point'

Charlie Cook writes in his National Journal column: Since this is the first "Off To The Races" column since Congress returned from its August recess, a bit of stage setting would seem to be in order.

Only an ABC News poll, in which 42 percent approved of the job President Bush is doing, has been released in the last week, but there has been some evidence that his overall approval rating might have ticked up a point or two, averaging about 39 percent. Other polls are expected to be released soon, so we will be able to see if this trend continues.

That number -- 39 percent -- matches the Gallup Poll job approval ratings for President Clinton during mid-August and early September of 1994, just weeks before



HOWEY *Political Report*

Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

that disastrous election for Democrats.


An average of the last nine major national polls taken over the last month shows Democrats with a lead averaging 11 points on the generic congressional ballot test. Even allowing for an average 5-point skew in favor of Democrats -- the average historical difference between the generic ballot test and the Democrats' share in the two-party popular vote for the House -- this is a very ugly number for the Republican majority.

In short, all the major diagnostic indicators that analysts look at to determine what kind of year it will be point to something that looks nothing like the "all politics is local" dynamic that was pretty much the case in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004. This dynamic holds sway in roughly 80 percent of all midterm election years and 90 percent of presidential years. This year looks much more like 1958, 1966, 1974, 1982, 1986 and 1994. In those cases, politics was anything but local.


While the national environment has looked increasingly awful for Republicans all year, it was once hard to see how Democrats could net the 15 seats needed for a House victory, and it was extremely difficult to see them thread the needle for a Senate win. While Democratic hopes of winning a Senate majority still look decidedly uphill, over the last three months we've seen more and more GOP House seats move into the vulnerable column or worse, for them, into extremely vulnerable status.

Today, 20 GOP House seats are rated tossups or worse; there are no longer any Democratic seats that look that endangered. Fifteen more GOP seats are competitive, but with Republicans still given an edge; nine Democratic seats are in comparable terms on their side of the chart.

A race-by-race, "micro-political" count today suggests that the House is right at the tipping point, with Republicans losing about 12-18 seats, but the outcome is more likely to be higher than this range than lower, perhaps significantly so. ❖







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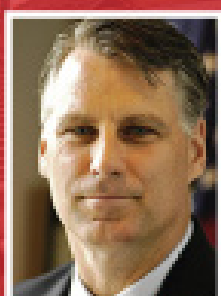
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Republicans emphasize security; Roemer concerned about tone *Questions Dems Should Pose on Issue*

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - During a week dominated by the 9/11 anniversary, Republican leadership in the House of Representatives emphasized national security as the priority for the election.

Former Democratic Rep. Tim Roemer offered advice to his party's candidates on how to prevail in the security debate, which he agreed is the most important issue this fall.

In a meeting with reporters on Tuesday, House Majority Leader John Boehner accused Democrats of weakening national security. "I wonder if they are more interested in protecting the terrorists than protecting the American people," he said. "They certainly do not want to take the terrorists on and defeat them."

Boehner's rhetoric disturbs Roemer. "If this is the tone 55 days out from the election, we are in serious trouble," Roemer said in an HPR interview.

During the course of a campaign, competing ideas on national security would inevitably arise. But enlightened debate hasn't been the product of such electoral tension, according to Roemer, who will keynote the HPR Forum on Oct. 10 at the Columbia Club.

"Instead, we're in a quickly deteriorating situation," he said. Nonetheless, the former 9/11 Commission member argues that this fall's vote will center on which candidates make Americans feel safe.

"National security is the linchpin issue," said Roemer. "If you stumble on national security in races in the Midwest, you're going to erect a wall on some of the other critical economic (and social) issues."

Roemer outlines national security questions

For instance, a discussion about protecting children can lead to addressing education and jobs. Roemer outlined three questions that "any challenger running against an incumbent member of Congress" should pursue:

Why are we seeing so many mistakes in Iraq and backsliding in Afghanistan? Why has Congress passed only half of the 9/11 Commission's 41 recommendations?

Why has the administration scored so low on 9/11 Commission report card, receiving 12 Ds, 5 Fs and two incompletes?

It all boils down to this query, Roemer said: "Why aren't we safer than we are?" He lays part of the blame on Capitol Hill politics. "We're tied up in knots and we're gridlocked."

But Boehner accuses the Democrats of playing politics with national security. He asserted that House Democrats have held up a 9/11 resolution over a dispute about a list of bills that Congress passed in response to the terrorist attacks.

He also said that 37 of 39 recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission have been implemented. Roemer disputed that claim.

In the 8th CD, Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth, the Democratic opponent to incumbent GOP Rep. John Hostettler, is using his law enforcement experience as a shield against potential Republican attacks.

"Security always comes first," said Jay Howser, Ellsworth's campaign manager. Ellsworth stresses that homeland security spending should address high-priority needs like bolstering communication equipment for local safety officials. "That's what all the

first responders want more than anything," said Howser.

Republicans link immigration, security

The local level is also the area where Republicans are trying to forge a link between immigration and security. Even in the 8th CD, which is home to a small number of Latinos, immigration is an urgent matter, Hostettler asserts. He says 80 percent of the questions he receives at townhall meetings revolve around immigration.

"I would rank it as number one in the district and number one in the nation," Hostettler said in response to an HPR question following a House immigration forum on Tuesday. He reiterated his opposition to a Senate bill that would create a path to naturalization for illegal immigrants. "The amnesty guest worker program is the number one concern that Hoosiers have," he said.

Hostettler, chairman of a House immigration subcommittee, was confident that he could separate himself from Ellsworth on immigration, even though both support the House bill that focuses on border security and enforcement. "I don't want to give away my best stuff," he said, smiling sanguinely. "Everybody will hear about it."

The Ellsworth campaign fired back, accusing Hostettler of lassitude on immigration. "He's had 12 years



Former Indiana congressman and 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer in Terre Haute earlier this year. Roemer will keynote the HPR Forum on Oct. 10 (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Chocola Goes Up with Immigration Ad

In the 2nd CD, incumbent GOP Rep. Chris Chocola launched an immigration TV ad on Wednesday. In it, he accuses his Democratic opponent, Joe Donnelly, of supporting amnesty for illegal immigrants.

"Donnelly would reward those whose first act in our country was to break the law," the narrator says. "Donnelly's amnest plan drives up healthcare costs and strains law enforcement. Joe Donnelly. Wrong on immigration. Wrong on amnesty." Chocola campaign spokesman Brooks Kochvar said that the ad had "heavy penetration."

Donnelly's campaign said that the South Bend Tribune quote the ad is based on was taken out of context.

	NRCC: "AT STAKE" "Control of Congress is at stake in the coming election. Will Brad Ellsworth vote for liberal Democrat Nancy Pelosi for Speaker of the House?"	ATLA: "Life"
	<small>the latest ad</small>	Ellsworth: "Pump"
		Donnelly: "Doesn't"
		Chocola: "Energy Plans"
		Brizzi: "Tough"

CAMPAIGN ADS COMING TO HPR WEBSITE: On Friday, the HPR website at www.howeypolitics.com will be teaming up with the website [IndianaOnMessage](http://IndianaOnMessage.com). You will be able to see the latest congressional, legislative and local TV campaign ads. The site was developed by Western H.S. junior Ryan Nees, who will become a contributing analyst for HPR. IU economist Morton J. Marcus's column is also featured.

"Joe believes we need better border security and stricter enforcement of laws that prohibit employers from hiring illegal workers," said Katie Nee, Donnelly's campaign manager. Nee said that Donnelly wants to see more border agents, better technology to protect the borders and improved cargo inspections at ports. "This Congress and Chris Chocola have failed to do these things and that's an important reason why voters want change." ❖

Now cometh the Greggernaut?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Former House speaker John Gregg has been the most active Jefferson-Jackson Day speaker for Indiana Democrats this year as well as emceeing the Democratic Convention. He was at it again last night in Shelbyville.

Is this a prelude to Gregg for Governor '08?

"I am just going out and meeting with the party faithful," Gregg told HPR on Tuesday. "Democrats need a message of hope and peace and prosperity. I want to do what I can do to see that Pat's back in control of the House."

Well, you didn't say you would or wouldn't run for governor, HPR persisted. "I'm just going out and meeting with the party faithful," Gregg reiterated.

State Sen. Vi Simpson, briefly a candidate for governor in 2003, is also high on the list. She was the leading J-J speaker in 2005, but has spent much of this year leading the Democratic Senate campaign committee.

Simpson told HPR this morning, "John Gregg is a charming, articulate speaker and Democrats love to hear from him. He would be a great candidate for Governor, but I don't know if he has decided to make that quest."

Then there are the mayors: Bart Peterson, Jonathan Weinzapfel and Graham Richard. All face the same

quandary: Do I run for re-election in 2007 and then run again for governor in '08? Weinzapfel needs seasoning and another term. Richard has told HPR he will either seek a third term or work for the Bayh presidential campaign.

Peterson remains at the top of most Democratic wish lists. He insists he can run in both '07 and '08 if he's upfront with voters about it. He can be upfront all he wants, but the fact is that if something goes wrong on the police merger front; if there's a scandal in his administration; if he has to follow through and raise a bunch of taxes; all those things can destroy a gubernatorial campaign.

Having said that, the very first voice in this whole process could be Sen. Evan Bayh. If his presidential campaign (or that for veep) takes off, it is in his best interest to have as good a ticket in Indiana as possible so that he can be in a position to carry the state.

If Bayh were to lean on either Peterson or Richard to lead the Indiana ticket, it could happen. The process is not that far off. Democrats feel they must coalesce around a candidate in the first half of 2007. Peterson and Richard are expected to come to some conclusions right after the November elections.

If the Indiana House goes Democratic by a large margin (54 seats and up, which is NOT out of the question) 2008 becomes a more compelling apple than it is now, when conventional wisdom is that the Major Moves money will make Daniels invincible in 2008. ❖



Former House speaker John Gregg.



Bayh asserts security credentials, assails Bush

By MARK CURRY

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh has been working overtime to assert his national security credentials. In the week since the end of the Senate's summer recess he has made repeated calls for Congress and the president to make changes in the prosecution of the war on terror.

On Monday, five years after the national tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, President Bush told the American people that the war against terrorists "is the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st century, and the calling of our generation."

The safety of America, he said, "depends on the outcome of the battle in the streets of Baghdad."

According to Sen. Bayh, the administration's policies -- and the president's leadership -- are insufficient to meet these challenges. In the past seven days he has:

- Criticized Senate leadership for their inability to pass an intelligence authorization bill for the second year in a row;
- Blasted Congress for failing to implement all of the 9-11 Commission's recommendations;
- Lamented "the bureaucratic and dysfunctional nature of Washington" in announcing he had successfully inserted an amendment into defense appropriations legislation to fully fund a previously ignored and then delayed U.S. Special Operations Command request for Predator unmanned aerial vehicles;
- Joined with Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) to request at least one hearing on the state of U.S. human intelligence collections on Iran before the end of the month in light of "the intelligence failures in Iraq."

On the day after the events of 9-11, Sen. Bayh issued a statement resolving "to make those who have perpetrated this terrible act pay for their crimes." Like nearly all Americans, he abandoned politics and partisanship to support the president in developing an appropriate response to the terrorist attacks.

"There's a strong bipartisan atmosphere here in Washington the likes of which I have not seen before," he said after President Bush's speech of Sept. 20, 2001. "It is

unfortunate that it took tragedy to bring it about, but today, there are no Democrats or Republicans in Washington, only Americans. We are going to work with our President to make sure that we protect our country, punish those who committed this crime, and do whatever it takes to make sure this never happens again."

Yet partisanship was clearly back in vogue as early as July 2002, when Bayh presided as chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council that rapped "a confused and compromised Bush administration and a hapless, interest-group-driven GOP."

An article in the July 29, 2002, issue of the DLC magazine, *The Blueprint*, stated "The administration's one great success in the fight against terrorism, the military campaign against the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan, is beginning to look like an exception to a general rule of uncertainty and drift."

Bayh's unease with the administration's policies did not prevent him from supporting the invasion of Iraq in a resolution tendered a few months later. He joined 76 other senators, including most Democrats, in voting to authorize the attack. "I am pleased to join with my colleagues today on a bipartisan basis to authorize the President of the United States to use appropriate force to defend the nation-

al security interests of our country," Bayh said in a speech offered Oct. 2, 2002, when Resolution 46 was submitted (Iraq Watch). "I join in this effort with a sense of regret that events have come to this. No one can contemplate the use of military force with much satisfaction, but I also approach this debate with the firm conviction that the time has come to unite, to take those steps that are necessary to protect our country, including the use of force, because all other avenues have been exhausted and seem unlikely to lead to the result of protecting the American people."

By May 2004 Bayh was clearly dissatisfied with the administration's "conduct of our Iraqi policy." During an appearance by Donald Rumsfeld before the Armed Services Committee prompted in part by the Iraqi prison scandal, Bayh asked the secretary of defense point-blank:

"Would it serve to demonstrate how seriously we take this situation, and therefore help to undo some of the damage to our reputation, if you were to step down?" Bayh asked Rumsfeld. "That's possible," Rumsfeld said.

At the time Indiana's former governor said he



In the week since the end of the Senate's summer recess Evan Bayh has made repeated calls for Congress and the president to make changes in the prosecution of the war on terror. He often slams Republicans for being "a lot better at national security politics than national security policy."



didn't really expect Rumsfeld to quit. "[T]here are broader questions here about the conduct of our Iraqi policy," he said on an appearance with Fox News Sunday, "and that all goes to the Oval Office. So, I don't think Donald Rumsfeld ought to be made a scapegoat for that."

In August 2004 the president told the **New York Times** he had made "a miscalculation of what the conditions would be" in post-war Iraq. By September the death toll of U.S. soldiers topped 1,000. In October, Paul Bremer, who had been Bush's civilian administrator in Iraq, said the U.S. "paid a big price" for not having enough troops on the ground after overthrowing Saddam (CNN). Also that month, a CIA report concluded "Hussein did not possess stockpiles of illicit weapons at the time of the U.S. invasion in March 2003 and had not begun any program to produce them," CNN reported.

By December, apparently, the junior senator had had enough. During a lengthy appearance on CNN's **Late Edition** with Wolf Blitzer, Sen. Bayh called on the secretary to resign. Here is an excerpt from the show's transcript:

BAYH: ...And when you see Andy Card say, "Hey, everything has been great, there have been no mistakes, we don't have to correct anything," you have to wonder what's going on. Look, it's better that wisdom come late than not at all. And we have to learn from these mistakes so that we do better to minimize the number of casualties to win this thing so that we can ultimately come home. And it's the lack of any introspection that I find to be very troubling.

BLITZER: But I want to just press you on this point. You're a moderate Democrat, well-known. Do you think he should resign?

BAYH: Well, reluctantly, Wolf, I've concluded that we have to have a different perspective. The commander in chief will be in place for the next four years, so that doesn't leave us many alternatives.

BLITZER: So you want Rumsfeld out?

BAYH: Well, I think that that is the way to go. But if we don't have different policies, frankly, it will just be a game of musical chairs. What is important here is that we have better policies so that we can be successful in these things.

By February 2006, Evan Bayh was ready to recant his vote on the resolution supporting the invasion of Iraq (see HPR, April 13). After stating he would have made a different decision based on the facts now known, Bayh added, "...it is legitimate to ask what people have learned, how we would do things different, those kinds of things," Bayh told the **Washington Post**. "We've got to stop just obsessing on decisions that were made several years ago, and instead focus on where we are, and most importantly, where we're going, and how most effectively to resolve this in a way that is in the national security interest of the United States. That really is the main issue."

Bayh had already assailed Iran as "a grave and

growing danger" to U.S. security interests and introduced a resolution calling for economic and cultural sanctions. "If people don't trust us with our lives, they're unlikely to trust us with anything else," Bayh often told Democrats during his travels through 22 states in the past year. He also slammed Republicans for being "a lot better at national security politics than national security policy."

On Aug. 9, Evan Bayh, once considered among the staunchest Democratic supporters for the war, told an audience at Indiana University South Bend that he supported a flexible timeline for withdrawal from Iraq, according to **South Bend Tribune** political writer James Wentsits.

Bayh said "There's got to be a timeline for progress" that can be flexible "but you have to have a timeline or there's no end to it," Wentsits wrote.

Last week Bayh invited reporters to join him in a conference call to discuss the failure by Congress to implement all of the 9-11 Commission's recommendations.

"It is still a dangerous world," he said. "The plot to blow up airliners and kill thousands of people this summer reminds us that there [are] still people who plan to attack our country and kill Americans. We can't let that happen. Not enough is being done to prevent that. The bipartisan commission that studied the causes that led to the 9-11 attack made 41 recommendations. There was a review just recently about how we had done in implementing those recommendations. The report concluded four "F"s, nine "D"s and no "A"s. That's not acceptable. We have to do better."

The national media have yet to notice. Type "evan bayh" and "national security" into the Google News search engine and the results number about 90 hits for the last month: type in Hillary Clinton and the number is 390; for John Kerry, it's 940.

Sen. Bayh will have an opportunity to improve those numbers over the next few days. Tomorrow he headlines the Iowa United Auto Workers political convention (**Indianapolis Star**). On Monday he will be in New York to host a fundraiser for Gov. John Lynch (D-N.H.) and gubernatorial candidate Chet Culver (D-Iowa). Former Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke will offer a briefing on foreign policy, according to Bayh's press secretary Meghan Keck. And, in his fifth visit to the Granite State since the 2004 presidential election, Bayh is to be the special guest at the Manchester, N.H., City Democrats' "Countdown to Victory Dinner" on Sept. 24 (politicsnh.com)

The effort by both parties to shape the message on national security before mid-term elections presents an opportunity for Evan Bayh. Actually, it presents a double opportunity: He has the occasion to further assert his credentials in the area of defense while at the same time demonstrating the leadership critics say he lacks - the sort that inspires as much as it impresses.





Mark Kiesling, Times of Northwest

Indiana - Can it really be five years since Sept. 11? Sure, I know today is Sept. 11. But in the hearts and minds of most Americans, there is only one 9/11 and you already know which one I'm talking about. My parents were barely in high school when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, but when I see the date Dec. 7, that is the first thing that springs to my mind. I was barely in elementary school when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, yet I will always associate Nov. 22 with that event. I don't remember the Alamo, and I don't remember the Maine, at least not the dates on which the events surrounding them happened. But I think, even though only five years have passed, that we will remember Sept. 11 as long as there is a United States of America. The enormity of that day and the bravery of average Americans on an airplane and police and firefighters who sacrificed themselves in a pair of collapsing skyscrapers will ensure that there's a permanent place in our history for Sept. 11. ❖

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune

Indiana, so often without a voice in national politics in the picking of a president, will speak loudly on Nov. 7 in determining control of Congress. Democrats need a net gain of 15 seats to take control of the House from Republicans. And Indiana races could provide 20 percent of those seats needed to change control and end Republican dominance in national politics. That's why both parties will be pouring money for television advertising and other resources into Indiana in three targeted districts. Chocola initially wasn't regarded as a prime target for a Democratic upset. After all, he won easily in '04 and had a huge campaign funding advantage again over Donnelly. But Chocola was buffeted by a perfect storm, perfect for Democrats. Converging to threaten Chocola are some elements beyond his control, the angry winds whipped up by the Toll Road deal and daylight-saving time confusion. Gov. Mitch Daniels' high pressure system collided with a Washington low as shown by a dropping political barometer for President Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress. Even with forecasts for Democratic gains, Donnelly still needed to do two things in order to get the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to help him all-out this time. (The committee didn't give him a cent in '04, when he was written off as a sure loser.) Donnelly needed to demonstrate that he could organize a campaign and raise money. He did that. Donnelly also needed to demonstrate in polls that he had a chance. When two polls showed him actually a bit ahead, targeting followed. Thus, with three of the top races in the nation, Indiana has be-

come the Florida or Ohio in this national election, the state that could be decisive. ❖

Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star

Indiana Hallelujah! Brother Brian is going to save us all. With the Hoosier state's salvation on his mind, House Speaker Brian Bosma made a pilgrimage to the Windy City on Thursday. In a courthouse there, Bosma the Blessed continued his crusade for official and essentially unrestricted prayer from the House podium. Give him an "Amen." Because who doesn't look to politicians -- those experts at negative ads and partisanship -- for their spirituality? Who needs a priest or rabbi when Pat Bauer and Brian Bosma can guide you to peace in the valley? Why go to church when you can just go to the saintly Statehouse for a sermon on pork barrel politics? Come on, let's be straight. This is about politics, and

not prayer, because legislators can pray all they want. A lower court has simply ruled that prayers from the podium must not be specific to one faith. Religion-specific prayers can be offered before the legislative session officially opens. Those restrictions, however, are too much of a cross for our preaching politicians to bear. This is an election year, after all, and prayer sells. So Bosma the Bibleman calls news conferences and spends a mountain of tax dollars fighting for prayers he likes. Acting like an election-year holy warrior, he uses words such as "close-minded" to describe those who want government-sanctioned prayers to be inclusive. He questions whether Democrats care as much about prayer as the GOP.

So something as personal as prayer becomes political. But forget about that. Let's consider a different prayer issue today. That's this: If we're going to pray at the Statehouse, what should we pray for? Maybe we should pray for lawmakers to stop selling the influence they gain as public servants to the highest bidder once they leave office. Wouldn't it be a gift from heaven to never again see an ex-lawmaker trolling the Statehouse hallways as a lobbyist? Hey, this is kind of fun. Let's all get on our knees. Dear God, please bless our fine lawmakers and the state's hardworking lobbyists. But please don't let another lobbyist buy another dinner for another lawmaker at St. Elmo Steak House. And let's pray that lawmakers won't use this fight for prayer as a political issue, or fill our mailboxes and TV screens with disingenuous half-truths this campaign season. And please God, don't let lawmakers waste tax dollars on bills filed only to score political points. Also, don't let them pass feel-good bills -- like that one to end property taxes -- that are just political gimmicks. ❖





Critical toll road trip for Daniels

TRENDLINE No. 1: Gov. Mitch Daniels will make a politically critical trip to Northern Indiana today and Friday, attempting to help embattled House Republicans shore up support lost with the leasing of the Indiana Toll Road. He will appear in Elkhart, Angola, Kendallville and LaGrange on Thursday, and South Bend and LaPorte on Friday. A recenter Survey USA tracking in August showed the governor's favorable/unfavorable rating at 28/68 percent. That low popularity is threatening the re-election prospects of State Reps. John Ulmer, Steve Heim, Marlin Stutzman and Jackie Walorski, and the candidacy of Republican Tom Dermody in HD20. Daniels will be delivering historically large checks of \$40 million to the toll road counties. Daniels' Friday visit to LaPorte will take place in the City Council Chambers, where Councilwoman Andrea Renner serves. Renner is facing Dermody in HD 20.



Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. Democrat: Joe Donnelly. **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. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola says he has a four-point plan for reducing energy costs that starts with finding a way to lessen its reliance on foreign oil and includes increased domestic exploration, more conservation and making sure that price gouging isn't tolerated (Wensits, **South Bend Tribune**). Energy costs become a "personal experience" when we pay \$3 a gallon at the pump, Chocola said, but the whole cost of energy includes the fuel we buy to heat our homes and even buying things made out of plastic. To start with, Chocola said, "we need to have alternative sources of energy like renewable fuels, which is ethanol, biodiesel and also alternative fuels, which would be things like wind,

solar and battery." "We also need to increase domestic production of traditional fuels, like oil and gas," he said.

Status: TOSSUP

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. Democrat: Fort Wayne Councilman Thomas Hayhurst. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **People:** Urban/rural 65/35%; median income \$44,013; Race: 87% white, 6% black, 4.5% Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 36/52% **2000 Presidential:** Bush 66%, Gore 33%. **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+17. 2002 results: Souder 92,566 (63%), Rigdon 50,509 (34%). **2004 Results:** Souder, Parra 2004 Results: Souder 171,389 (69%), Parra 76,232 (31%). **2006 Forecast:** Hayhurst has topped \$250,000. Indiana Democrats have sent in a field rep. Hayhurst appears to be running a Graham Richard-style subterrean campaign that bypasses earned media. We continue to watch this race to see if the wave catches up. **Status:** LEANS SOUDER

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **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. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** A WISH-TV poll shows Ellsworth leading Hostettler 44-40 percent, with 52 percent of independents backing the Democrat. Hostettler is running a new ad attempting to link Ellsworth to Sen. Hillary Clinton and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. The ad says, "National Democrats in Congress believe that your taxes should be higher to pay for their bigger government." Ellsworth came to Washington on Wednesday to make inroads with Capitol Hill Democrats and participate in a fundraiser sponsored by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (Mark Schoeff Jr., **HPR**). His visit was part of a DCCC effort to highlight candidates it is targeting in its Red-to-Blue campaign. Ellsworth talked with members of the Blue Dog coalition, a group of moderate Democrats. Ellsworth campaign manager Jay Howser described the meeting as "very positive. They're looking forward to having another conservative Democrat in the



House." Howser said that Ellsworth is pro-life, supports gun rights, opposes "amnesty" for illegal immigrants and tax increases, and doesn't want America to "cut and run" in Iraq. In response to an HPR question, a smiling Hostettler hinted that he has an ad barrage poised to portray Ellsworth as a liberal. He scoffed at Ellsworth's conservative credentials. "That will be a hard sell over the next eight weeks," Hostettler said. "The message will be clear."

Status: TOSSUP

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. 2002 Results: Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. 2004 Results: Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** Hill leads in the WISH-TV poll of 400 likely voters 46-40 percent, which is just outside the 5 +/- margin of error. The sample size was 31 percent Democrat, 38 percent Republican. Hill led among women 49-36 percent and among independents 52-29 percent. Sodrel led the male voters 44-43 percent. HPR is leaving this race in "tossup." Key Democrats have told us that of the three Indiana seats in play, this one is the most in doubt. PBS Newshour with Jim Lehrer will be in the state covering this race this weekend. The two campaigns have bought \$1 million apiece in the Louisville TV market. Hill charged last week that Sodrel has violated a pledge to keep the campaign clean (Hershberg, **Louisville Courier-Journal**). "On Aug. 18 I signed a clean-campaign pledge," Hill said at a press conference in Jeffersonville. "Mike Sodrel did as well." But a little more than two weeks after signing the pledge, Hill claimed, Sodrel violated it with misleading statements in an ad. Cam Savage, Sodrel's campaign manager, said the ad was truthful and doesn't violate the pledge. Hill disputed two statements in the ad: That when Hill was in Congress he was "shipping jobs overseas." That Hill, who was in Congress before he was defeated by Sodrel in 2004, remained in Washington "and went to work for a big lobbying firm." Hill said there is no basis for a claim he shipped jobs overseas. But Savage said the statement is based on Hill's support of legislation normalizing trade relations with China, which Savage said led to the loss of U.S. jobs. **Status:** TOSSUP. ❖

Legislative Races

House District 20: Republican: LaPorte School Trustee Tom Dermody. Democrat: LaPorte City

Councilwoman Andrea Renner. **2002 Results:** Budak 12,551, Gillon (L) 2,540. **2004 Results:** Budak 12,944, Spevak (D) 10,013, Schadowsky (L) 1,038. **2006 Forecast:** Of the four GOP seats in "Likely Takeover," this one got the biggest protest from state and local Republicans. We put it there because Gov. Daniels has failed to "sell" the toll road lease in Northern Indiana and Democrats are poised to ground this notion in. None of Dermody's key supporters could supply us with refuting tracking data. Instead, they disparage Councilwoman Renner as a poor candidate. One bit of information that could become a factor is that Dermody's father-in-law is the Democratic LaPorte County sheriff. But does that mean Sheriff Arnold will be working against his party's ticket? Gov. Daniels will appear with Dermody to announce the Major Moves \$40 million in funds to LaPorte County. We'll be watching for evidence that this has altered the environment in favor of Dermody. **Status:** LEANS D (Likely Takeover)

House District 21: Republican: State Rep. Jackie Walorski. Democrat: Bob Kovach. **2002 Results:** Mangus 10,722. **2004 Results:** Walorski 13,753, Kaser (D) 7,737. **2006 Forecast:** We are getting anecdotal evidence from both sides that this race has, once again, tightened. Thus, we move it into tossup. **Status:** TOSSUP.

House District 26: Republican: Tippecanoe County Councilwoman Connie Basham. **Democrat:** Joe Micon. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. 2002 Results: Scholer 5,630, Micon 4,731. 2004 Results: Micon (D) 10,077, Basham (R) 9,471. **2006 Forecast:** Micon says he has a poll showing him with an 18 percent lead. Giving the current environment, we move this race out of tossup. **Status:** LEANS D

House District 45: Republican: Bruce Borders. Democrat: Mike Bledsoe. **2002 Results:** Chowning 9,627, Borders 9,337. **2006 Forecast:** We've heard from too many Republicans and Democrats who tell us that Borders personality and goodwill makes this an unlikely pickup for the Democrats. **Status:** LIKELY R.

House District 49: Republican: State Rep. John Ulmer. Democrat: Mike Puro. **2004 Results:** Ullmer 17,592. **2006 Forecast:** Puro says he feels as good about this race as any of his three Goshen mayoral victories. Republican sources are now expressing concern that this race has come fully into play due to the toll road lease. House Speaker Brian Bosma told HPR last night, "I wish I could tell you that wasn't the case." **Status:** TOSSUP

House District 57: Republican: Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart. Democrat: J.D. Lux. **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004 **2006 Forecast:** They didn't break out in a chorus of "Happy Days Are Here Again," but the mood was nearly as jubilant when members of the Shelby County Council announced Wednesday night that the county is in such good financial shape,



longevity pay will be awarded to employees with at least 10 years of service (**Shelbyville News**). "Last year, we gave a 3-percent raise - plus step increases - and this year, we were able to go a little bit further," said Sean Eberhart, president of the county council. Eberhart said the longevity pay will amount to about 3 percent of an employee's salary. He emphasized that the Shelby County Board of Commissioners will need to approve of the new pay policy before it can be finalized. The county has 281 employees. The good news - which arrived smack dab in the middle of an election year - may be especially welcome to employees who have hung in with Shelby County during darker financial times. "Our number one priority is to take care of our county employees, and I think we did a good job this year," Eberhart said. **Status:** TOSSUP

House District 86: Republican: Kathryn Densborn. Democrat: State Rep. David Orentlicher. **2002 Results:** Orentlicher 9,909, Atterholt (R) 9,872. **2004 Results:** Orentlicher 15,178, Large (R) 13,261, Goldstein (L) 585. **2006 Forecast:** Densborn is conducting her door-to-door campaign blaming Orentlicher for the House prayer controversy. **Status:** TOSSUP.

Senate District 41: Republican: Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. **2002 Results:** Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006 Forecast:** Walker and Coriden will debate twice, at Franklin College and Columbus. We continue to hear anecdotal evidence that Coriden is picking up significant Republican support. **Status:** TOSSUP

Marion County Prosecutor: Republican: Prosecutor Carl Brizzi. Democrat: Melina Kennedy. **2006 Forecast:** A WISH-TV poll has Kennedy leading 43-42 percent. Kennedy has a 46-38 percent lead with women; Brizzi leads men 46-40. **Status:** TOSSUP

Battle for the House HPR Forecast: D 52, R 48

Likely Takeover (4-R)

Woodruff (Battles)
Heim (Dembowski)
Bright (Cheatham)
Open (Budak: Dermody vs. Renner)

Tossups (8-R; 1-D)

Buell (Barnes) Orentlicher (Densborn)
J. Smith (Herrell)
Saunders (Sadler (D), and Bell (L))
Open (Messer: Eberhart vs. Lux)
Stutzman (Rorick)
Harris (Hile)
Walorski (Kovach)
Ulmer (Puro)

Leans (8-R; 7-D)

Lehe (Sutton) Hoy (A. Smith)
Hinkle (Olds) Open (Stemler v Theobald)
Davis (Liggett) Crooks (Arnold)
Lutz (Mengelt) Austin (Metzger)
Dodge (Rauen) Tincher (Dallas)
Open (Ayres: Soliday v. Graham (D) Denbo (Patton)
Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning) **Micon (Basham)**
Open (Thomas: Thomas v. Thompson (D)

Likely (2-R; 0-D)

Bosma (Fuldauer)
Borders (Bledsoe)

Safe (30-R; 40-D)

(30 Republican) Gutwein, Wolkins, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Buck, Torr, Whetstone, T. Brown, Foley, Frizzell, Behning, Murphy, Noe, Pond, Borrer, Bell, Espich, Ripley, Crouch, Duncan, Koch, Open (Yount: M. Smith), Burton, Cherry, Leonard, Neese

(36-Democrats) Avery, Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Pelath, Cheney, Grubb, Stevenson, Open (Aguilera: Reardon), Dobis, V. Smith, Kuzman, Bardon, Tyler, Reske, Kersey, Welch, Pierce, Goodin, Robertson, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, Open (B. GiaQuinta, P. GiaQuinta), Moses, Dickinson, Avery, VanHaaften, Day, Summers, Mays, Crawford, Mahern, Porter, **Klinker (Rhoda), Pflum (Bell), Fry (Hiler), Bischoff (Ullrich)**

Movement: Walorski and Ulmer into Tossup from Leans; Micon from tossup to Leans; Borders from Leans to Likely; Klinker, Pflum, Fry and Bischoff from Likely to Safe. ❖





Mayor Costas accused of violating auto-dialer ban

VALPARAISO - Porter County Assessor Shirley LaFever's husband has filed a complaint with the Indiana Attorney General about an auto-dialer phone message from Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas supporting her opponent (Post-Tribune). William LaFever released a complaint he said he filed Monday with Attorney General Steve Carter. The call from Costas came April 27, just days before LaFever was defeated by Bill Sexton in the May Republican primary. "Costas is an attorney. He should know this is not legal," LaFever said. Carter recently put the two state party organizations on notice about automated calls.



Panel airs costs of FDK

INDIANAPOLIS - More teachers, classrooms and buses will be needed to offer full-day kindergarten across Indiana, school officials have told the state (Guinane, **Times of Northwest Indiana**). These and other logistics were debated Wednesday, as Gov. Mitch Daniels oversaw a panel of business, education and community leaders known as the Indiana Education Roundtable. With no one raising objections to the prospect of state-funded full-day kindergarten, the panel spent the afternoon dissecting the details. "This is several hundred million dollars, potentially," said Patrick Keily, president of the Indiana Manufacturers Association. "We've got to do it right." "I don't need any studies," countered Thomas Hefner, owner of an Indianapolis investment firm. His impatience illustrated the common belief that Indiana already has waited too long to implement a crucial early development program. "It's time for

full-day kindergarten in Indiana and probably past time," Daniels said in opening remarks Wednesday.

Hamilton calls for use of 'soft power'

COLUMBUS - Adopting a "soft power" foreign policy is the only way the U.S. will maximize its global influence, according to former U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind (Columbus Republic). Hamilton spoke at The Commons Wednesday night about what U.S. foreign policy can achieve in the world. Bartholomew County Public Library Associates sponsored the event as the first of this year's Distinguished Speakers Series. Looking at the nation five years post 9/11, few need reminded of the threats facing Americans, Hamilton said. "The question is how the U.S. should use its power," he said. President Bush set some "fundamentally astonishing goals" that caused the U.S. to apply robust power in Afghanistan and Iraq, Hamilton said. The result was a sense of American strength that gripped the nation. But Hamilton said the vision sharply diminished as the Taliban government began to regain its foothold, American casualties in Iraq mounted and the level of violence in the fractured country soared. "While our ability for accomplishments in the world once seemed unlimited, we were unable to keep up," he said. "We cannot make the world in our image. "We cannot make others want what we want for them." Hamilton said the U.S.' power to affect "transformative change" is limited because countries always will

pursue that which is in their best interest. "We need a realistic view of what goals American power can and cannot achieve," he said. "We cannot die on every cross."

RTL, Planned Parenthood square off in SD26 race

MUNCIE - Indiana Right to Life and Planned Parenthood of Indiana are going head to head in the wide-open Indiana Senate District 26 race in Delaware County (Yencer, **Muncie Star Press**). Abortion is the issue and it's definitely on the agenda of the upcoming Indiana General Assembly session. IRTL's political action committee fired the warning shot Wednesday during a fund-raiser at the Roberts Hotel, where Republican Andrew Phipps was endorsed as its candidate. More than 120 people attended. Mike Fichter, PAC chairman, said the race could not be "more black and white" with contrasting positions between Phipps, a retired teacher, and Democrat Sue Errington, a former Planned Parenthood public policy director, on the issue of abortion. He referred to PPIN as Indiana's largest abortion provider. "Ms. Errington aggressively pursued Planned Parenthood's abortion agenda in Indiana -- an agenda that includes expanding access to abortion in Indiana, replacing abstinence-only education with programs that promote sexual activity outside marriage and condom distribution in schools, and increasing taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood," Fichter said. Phipps made it clear he opposed abortion. ❖



This Could be Dangerous



Abdul & Howey, 9 a.m. Every Monday
webcast @ www.wxnt.com