

Political Report

V13 N8

Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2006

The 9/11 statescraft of Roemer

HPR Forum Keynote Oct. 10

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - Sixteen years ago, Tim Roemer was a young Democratic congressional candidate taking aim at a 10-year Republican incumbent, John Hiler. The internet was just taking shape. The Berlin Wall had just fallen. The Iran-Iraq war had just ended. Osama bin Laden was humbling the imploding Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

In Roemer's race against Hiler, he talked of how the U.S. would use the "peace dividend." I covered this old 3rd Congressional District race for the Elkhart Truth, and in some situations, clearly pressed Roemer's patience, adopting a DCCC strategy to ask "four questions deep" on any given issue. Roemer was a former aide to U.S. Rep. John Brademas and Sen. Dennis DeConcini, and in the first few months of his campaign, he was quite green. He upset Hiler



in November 1990, sounding "outsider themes with insider skill," as the *Almanac of American Politics* noted. But in the early days of that campaign, he was a neophyte and it showed. He tended to shout, to the point that one Mishawaka Democrat would say, "Why is he yelling at us?"

Several years later, Terry Holt, who worked on the Hiler campaign and would later help engineer the upset of House Speaker Thomas Foley, remembered running into

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Donnelly's DINO-mite strategy

By RYAN NEES

KOKOMO - Joe Donnelly is no "Democrat in name only." He's hardly a Democrat in name at all, because he's erased the word from nearly everything his campaign produces. And among the pack of Democratic challengers across the country that may soon be swept into the halls of power, he's not alone.

Donnelly used to be more upfront. When he ran a scrappy, self-guided campaign in 2004, each of his yard signs read, "Democrat



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“ ”
QUOTE
of the Week



“As a team, we achieved our primary objective: making the BMV a better place to do business for all Hoosiers.”

- Out-going BMV Chief Joel Silverman



Political Report

for Congress." His limited TV ads and website did too. In early 2006, his message was the same. He was a true believer, to be sure...right up until his race "mattered."

In August, E.J. Dionne correctly observed in the Washington Post that "Karl Rove's greatest victory is how much he has spooked Democrats about themselves."

And it's ironic that as national Democrats become more attentive to Donnelly's race — just as his support reached its pinnacle and financing began pouring in from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Democratic interest groups — Donnelly skirted the Democratic label, erasing it from his walk cards, his yard signs, and his television ads. Donnelly campaign aides have privately asked me to play down the Granger Democrat's new strategy, for fear of angering the party faithful that the campaign so depends upon, and the campaign itself refused comment, citing internal deliberations.

When national support similarly coalesced around Brad Ellsworth, the National Republican Campaign Committee spent hundreds of thousands of dollars running television ads linking the conservative candidate to liberal House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. So perhaps Donnelly's new high-priced consultants were attempting to immunize him against the expected attacks (we'll see if it works...the NRCC began airing an ad "connecting the dots" between Pelosi and Donnelly last week; the connected dots spell out "liberal."), because, after all, being a Democrat doesn't poll well in Indiana.

Perhaps it might if the image of the Democratic Party better represented the bulk of its members — reliable moderates like Hill and Ellsworth. The GOP deserves a good deal of credit for so ably besmirching the Democratic name, certainly the word

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"liberal." But Democrats too are to blame for their weak-kneed self-image problem influenced first by domineering Republicans and only second by conviction or any sense of self-worth. Ellsworth and Donnelly alike invite

standing up to win elections, or Democrats standing up after being validated by elections?

The latter might happen if Democrats win the House this fall, largely benefitting from luck that's the

result of a numbingly long list of Republican missteps. But until then, about



attacks from the NRCC when they allow their more liberal colleagues to define what their party is, and by that stretch, what they are.

This is all done intentionally, of course. Democrats are so slavish to polling and focus group data that they're even willing to shed part of their identity to get elected — a poor display of sincerity that doesn't bode well for any leader, Democratic or Republican.

Which comes first? Democrats

the only place candidates like Donnelly will call themselves Democrats is on the November ballot — and likely then only because it's required by law.

Ryan Nees is a junior at Western High School in Kokomo. He is the creator of IndianaOnMessage, the web partner of HPR, streaming campaign audio and video ads from all corners of Indiana. He also has a column that appears in the Kokomo Perspective.



Roemer near Capitol Hill. "I told him he had turned into a very good congressman," Holt said.

On Tuesday Oct. 10, Roemer returns to Indiana as keynote for the HPR Forum and as a true American statesman. Eighteen months ago, he was mentioned as a possible challenger to U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. While that candidacy was quickly put aside when polling showed Lugar as virtually unbeatable, Roemer and Lugar have bemedged as critical voices of conscience in the era of asymmetrical warfare.

The NIE Furor

Roemer, Lugar and U.S.

Rep. Mike Pence, the architect of the immigration compromise, will comment on global issues as the debate on war and terrorism rages in the United States. It has involved such people as Fox News' Chris Wallace, President and Sen. Clinton, President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The White House refused Wednesday to release the rest of a secret intelligence assessment that depicts a growing terrorist threat, as the Bush administration tries to quell election-season criticism that its anti-terror policies are seriously off track, the Associated Press reported. Fox News reported that "top Democrats on Capitol Hill, eager to use the report as evidence the Iraq war has made the U.S. less safe, called for the full NIE to be released." CNN's The Situation Room said "for the third day in a row, Democrats went on the attack. The chairmen of both the Senate and the House Congressional Campaign Committees even called a press conference today to again really put Republicans on the spot and put a question to them." The New York Times reported that the controversy has derailed the White House fall campaign plan to exploit the terror issue.

On Oct. 10, this debate will be articulated by the voices of Hoosier statescraft: Roemer and Lugar.

Roemer & the 9/11 Commission

If anyone was taking issues "four questions deep" following the Sept. 11 attacks it was Tim Roemer. His most conspicuous post was that of Sept. 11 Commissioner, having written the legislation for the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. He did so as a lame duck congressman, having announced in January 2001 that he would not seek a seventh term. He had just won a bruising 52-47 percent victory over Chris Chocola.

Poised for academia with his name always in the mix for a step upward in Indiana and national politics, he was on Capitol Hill eight months later ... on Sept. 11, 2001, when such a thing as a "peace dividend" didn't seem so anachronistic.

Roemer said he remembered "the crispness of the air and the blueness of the sky" on Sept. 11, 2001. He was in his Congressional office watching CNN when the jets hit the World Trade Center. "I told my staff to go home. The rest of the day was kind of in slow motion, carved into my heart and mind. I remember stopping by a church, looking

for inspiration and hope." That night, Roemer stopped by the Pentagon. Looking at the charred gap in the Pentagon, Roemer said he "wondered what happened to the person at that desk." He said that during 9/11, "There were many times when you were afraid." He said, "I really felt the sense that this country came together in unity and hope. I hope we can get that back." St. Joseph County Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan said that after 9/11, "People wanted him to reconsider" run-

ning for a seventh term. He decided against it, a decision that would have historic consequences.

A grieving widow, a wedding ring ...

Roemer told his alma mater, the University of San Diego, how he will never forget the moment when the grieving widow handed him her murdered husband's wedding ring. Kristen Breitweiser was the mother of a 3-year-old daughter. Her 39-year-old husband Ron died on 9/11, while working on the 94th floor of the World Trade Center's South Tower. "She told me that she wanted me to remember that event," says Roemer. "She said: 'They found it about six weeks after 9/11, and they found it with part of his finger still in it. This is all I have left of my husband. I want you to hold onto that ring as you go about your work on the commission. And whenever you look at it, I want you to think about what might happen in the future if you and the other commission members don't ask the tough questions, don't knock the doors down, don't put these witnesses on the spot and get us accountability.'"

"That ring never left me for two years," Roemer told @UCSD Magazine. "All during the hearings, I kept thinking about the people who'd lost folks on 9/11. I knew from beginning to end that it was my job to try and make sure more people don't lose their husbands or wives or sons and daughters in the years to come. And I can tell you, that kind of responsibility just eats you alive. And so I decided, early on, that we had to get it right. We had to uncover the facts about 9/11 and let them speak for themselves. And we had to come up with a series of recommendations that would help prevent the errors and the mistakes and the failures that made us so vulnerable to the terrorists. Our world changed forever on 9/11. In the space of a few minutes, we went from a 'cold war' to a 'hot war.' We went from the old world of a threat from the Soviet



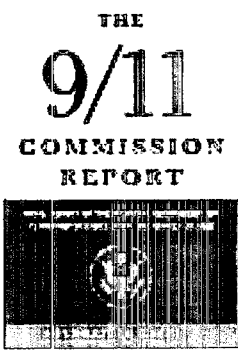
Timothy J. Roemer



Union to the new world of threats from terrorists driving pickup trucks and using laptops in Tora Bora."

"I think we did ask some tough questions, and I think we put some people on the spot," Roemer said soon after the publication of the Commission's 567-page report in late July of 2004. "But I'm absolutely convinced that politics didn't enter into anything we did. We were motivated by three things: we had the eyes of history on our backs; we had the claws of Al Qaeda on our shoulders; and we had the grief of 9/11 in our hearts."

"Serving on the September 11 Commission was an incredibly difficult and nerve-racking and exhausting process," Roemer told @UCSD Magazine writer Tom Nugent. "Right from the very first day of our work, I think all of us understood that we were probably engaged in the most important investigative hearings of our generation. The first crucial step was to make sure that in every interaction the commissioners had with the news media, all comments would be scrupulously balanced and non-partisan. We insisted on this kind of balance, to the point that it actually became rather comical at times. We started calling the chairman [Republican Tom Kean] and the vice chairman [Democrat Lee Hamilton] 'The Twins' because they simply refused to go anywhere without each other!"



Bush was skeptical

The Bush White House was skeptical of the 9/11 Commission. Roemer found the Breitweiser wedding ring as an object that spoke clearer than most voices. Each time the White House or one of the intelligence agencies balked at a Commission request for access, Roemer and the other commissioners would make sure that some of the highly visible family members came forward to demand that such access be provided. In the end, according to many Washington observers, the families proved to be the decisive factor in the release of scores of important docu-

Battle for the House HPR Forecast: D 51, R 49

Likely Takeover (3-R)

Woodruff (Battles)
Heim (Dembowski)
Bright (Cheatham)

Tossups (9-R; 1-D)

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

Leans (8-R; 7-D)

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

Likely (2-R; 0-D)

Bosma (Fuldauer)
Borders (Bledsoe)

Safe (30-R; 40-D)

(30 Republican) Gutvein, 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, Kelsey, Welch, Pierce, Goodin, Robertson, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, Open (B. GiaQuinta, P. GiaQuinta), Moses, Dickinson, Avery, VanHaften, Day, Summers, Mays, Crawford, Mahern, Porter, Klinker (Rhoda), Pfum (Bell), Fry (Hiler), Bischoff (Ulrich)

Movement: None. ♦



ments while also prompting vital testimony from such key figures as National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and President Bush. "There's no doubt that Tim was a thorn in the side of the administration, when it came to gaining access to both people and documents," says Commission member Slade Gorton, the former Republican senator from Washington told @UCSD Magazine. "And it was primarily due to his influence that we eventually got everything we needed."

'Don't litmus-test me!'

U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley would observe, "The record shows that Tim Roemer was a courageous legislator who stood up to anyone who tried to tell him how to vote."

Roemer's political will can still get him animated.

While running for the DNC Chair in 2005, he was under assault from abortion rights advocates. CNN reported: His voice rising, Roemer said, "I like a good fight. But don't put my arms behind me. Give me a chance to talk about my values. And don't litmus-test me."

Roemer is now president of the Center for National Policy (CNP).

While he was in Congress Roemer was recognized for his successful leadership on bipartisan legislation to balance the budget, reform welfare, improve the affordability of higher education, and reform elementary and secondary education for school children. He was appointed to the Intelligence Committee's Task Force on Homeland Security and Terrorism and served on the bipartisan Joint Inquiry which issued a report on the terrorist attacks of September 11. He was the key author of the legislation to establish the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. He was an original sponsor of the legislation that established the Department of Homeland Security.

His stewardship in Washington was marked with moderation. He opposed NAFTA and the 1990 Gulf War Resolution. He was one of 37 Democrats who urged President Clinton to sign the Welfare Reform Act. He voted to override Clinton's marriage penalty veto. He called for President Clinton's censure in 1998 during the Lewinsky scandal, but voted against the four impeachment counts.

When George W. Bush was elected president in 2000, Roemer was one of a few Democrats invited to Austin, Tex., to brief the president-elect on education matters. He was an advocate of "ed-flex" (giving school districts the ability to waive some regulations while increasing academic standards) and bucked the teachers unions by encouraging charter schools. During the fledgling days of the Bush administration, Roemer helped organize a centrist coalition in the House citing "frustration with not accomplishing enough."

Since the 9/11 Commission, Roemer has been a

candidate for Democratic national chairman. He has been an advocate of the 90/10 plan which aims to reduce the number of abortions by 90 percent in the next decade. He advocates that there is room in the Democratic Party for pro-life Catholics.

Shaw Friedman, the former LaPorte County Democratic chairman, worked with Roemer during the Brademas years. "It was only fitting that he avenged the 1980 loss of our mutual hero, John Brademas," Friedman said. "Tim's decency and compassion shine like a light and 12 years in the rough-and-tumble environment that is Capitol Hill did nothing to erase that. I think it was no accident that Lee Hamilton chose to help mentor him and encourage Tim's rise and recognition in the foreign policy establishment. Tim has the same kind of careful, analytical, and pragmatic approach to foreign policy that Lee Hamilton is known for. More than anything, they share a decency, humility and integrity that appears to bind them closely."



Friedman sees a future U.S. senator in Roemer. Morgan sees a potential governor. A Democrat with Roemer's stature and Midwestern roots might even be worthy of the Democratic ticket in 2008. "If he were to run for governor,

he'd be a good one," Morgan said. "He's a fiscal conservative who cares a lot about senior citizens and education. He was one person who understood that even though he was a Democrat, he represented a district that was pretty evenly split and he didn't always side with the president, but was always sensitive to the district needs."

Friedman was with Roemer a couple of weeks ago at a speech in Michigan City. "I can tell you he still commands great respect and affection," Friedman said. "I'd like to hope that he would consider making a U.S. Senate run someday as I think that Hoosiers in other parts of the state would just as easily and comfortably gravitate to him as did residents of Northern Indiana."

Unfinished business

At the HPR Forum on Oct. 10, Roemer is likely to continue his concern over "accomplishing things," including the half of the 9/11 Commission report awaiting passage. "I think the American people realized there will be fights, disagreements," Roemer said on Sept. 11, 2006 on CNN's **American Morning**. "But the 9/11 Commission Book outlined 41 ideas to make this country safer. Only half of these recommendations have been passed five years later. We have bin Laden and al-Zawahiri releasing tapes faster than U2. I think that would be a real honor to the people who died: Work in a bipartisan way and get the job done."

HPR Forum Registration: Call 317-254-0535 or see www.howeypolitics.com. ♦



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Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

2006 HPR Forum Oct. 10, 2006 Columbia Club Indianapolis

8:15 a.m. Opening remarks by Brian A. Howey of HPR and Dan Seitz of BoseTreacy Associates.

8:30 a.m. Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar, discussing the War on Terror, Iraq, North Korea, Iran, national security and energy insecurity. Introduction by Chris Katterjohn, Indianapolis Business Journal

9:30 a.m. Evan Bayh's Presidential Prospects Panel: Brian A. Howey, Mark Schoeff Jr. and Mark Curry of HPR; Michael O'Connor of BoseTreacy, James Pindell, Boston Globe. Introduction by Glenda Russell of Indiana Lawyer. Moderated by Patricia McGuffey, BoseTreacy Associates.

10:30 a.m. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, discussing the war, energy and immigration. Introduction by John Stowell, Duke Energy.

11:30 a.m. Lunch

12:15 p.m.: Keynote by 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer. Introduction by 2nd CD Democratic nominee Joe Donnelly.

1 p.m. Assessing the Daniels Administration in Year Two. Brian A. Howey; Doug Ross, Times of Northwest Indiana; Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune; Peter Schnitzler, Indianapolis Business Journal; Morton J. Marcus, Indiana University Kelley School of Business. Introduction by Tom Fruechtenicht, BoseTreacy Associates. Moderated by Tom Fruechtenicht.

1:45 p.m. Ethics and the Battle for the Indiana House. Tim Jeffers of the House Democrats and Mike Gentry of the House Republicans. Introduction by Don Blinzinger, BoseTreacy Associates. Moderated by Brian A.

Howey.

2:30 p.m. The Coming Senate Leadership Changes. Brian A. Howey; Niki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette; David Kitchell, Logansport Pharos-Tribune; RiShawn Biddle, Indianapolis Star; and Abdul-Hakim Shabazz from WXNT-AM. Moderated by Carolyn Elliott, BoseTreacy Associates.

Cost: \$75 for current HPR subscriber; \$100 for non-subscriber; \$350 for new HPR subscriber; \$120 for HPR subscriber seeking 6.4 hours of Continuing Legal Education and 1.0 hours of ethics; \$150 for non-subscriber CLE.

To Register: Call 317-254-0535 or go to the HPR website at www.howeypolitics.com and click on the Forum banner under the masthead. **Registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 6.** ♦

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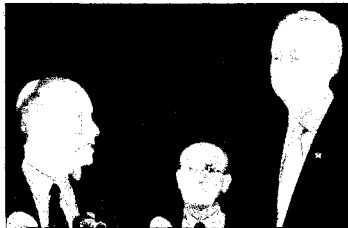


All things, gubernatorial

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

There was so much going on with the Indiana governorship that we excerpt this week:

DANIELS FAV/UNFAVS AT 39/55%: Gov. Mitch Daniels has a 39/55 percent favorable/unfavorable rating in the latest SurveyUSA tracking released last Friday. His standing with Hoosiers is still down significantly from July, when his fav/unfav ratings were 47/48 percent, coming on the heels of the Honda plant announcement in Greensburg. The SurveyUSA tracking was conducted Sept. 14-17, amidst Gov. Daniels' tour of toll road counties (Sept. 14-15) in which he handed out an unprecedented \$240 million in Major Moves money to counties, cities and towns. Gov. Daniels' fav/unfav rating in Northern Indiana stood at 35/57 percent, up from a low 26 percent approval earlier this summer. In Central Indiana, his fav/unfav stood at 40/57 percent, and in Southern Indiana, it was 36/57 percent. Only in Indianapolis did the governor have a better favorable rating at 49 percent, compared to a 46 percent unfavorable. With independent voters, Daniels stood at 35/57 percent. With Republicans, he was at 62/33 percent and with Democrats he stood at 22/73 percent.



THE 'BART SIMPSON '08' TICKET: The Democratic Dream Ticket is what we call the "Bart Simpson Team:" Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson and State Sen. Vi Simpson. More than 400 people are expected at a Lake County fundraiser featuring Peterson on Friday, triggering gubernatorial speculation. "A lot of people are scratching their heads, saying, 'What's (Peterson) doing stepping out of Indianapolis?'" said Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott Jr. (**Post-Tribune**). Peterson makes his decision after the Nov. 7 election. A key motivating factor will be whether U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh wants Peterson or Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard to run in an attempt to position the state for Blue status should Bayh make the national '08 ticket.

THE NEW CREW RESHUFFLE: Time for the B team? The Democrats were in a tizzy Wednesday afternoon when Gov. Daniels announced the departures of Mickey Mauer, Joel Silverman and Harry Gonso. All of these were expected. Mauer stated from Day One that he would stay two years. Silverman makes more off his stock portfolio than his state salary. We're amazed he stayed as long as he did, given the fiasco he presided over with the BMV computer switch. Silverman leaves, on Oct. 16, less than three weeks before the elections behind the greatest political liability for the GOP. It was so bad that House Republicans were getting out 52 ten-foot poles for BMV. The biggest surprise was that Esther Schneider has still got a job at the

Hoosier Lottery.

FLOATING TAX ADJUSTMENT BOARDS: Gov. Daniels "floated an idea" Monday morning: creating 92 tax adjustment boards that would regulate property taxes at the county level. Speaking at the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns convention on Monday where he actually broke into a few bars of the "Star Spangled Banner," Daniels noted that school corporations and libraries are responsible for the biggest slices in property tax increases, with cities and towns accounting for only 16 percent "while getting 96 percent of the blame." Daniels said, "If people think the taxes are too high for the services they are getting, they'll know exactly whose phone to call." He called the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance a "clumsey" mechanism to keep property taxes down. While he was very supportive of IACT's push for its Hometown Matters plan, which would give municipalities the option to replace property taxes with sales, income, food & beverage and other revenue options, Daniels warned IACT that "business leaders are not at all sold," fearing that it will just spur "more spending and taxation." Prior to his speech, LaPorte Mayor Leigh

Morris made an impassioned plea for Hometown Matters. Blaming the 1973 property tax reforms, Morris said that LaPorte "is in critical condition and every Indiana city and town is either in or headed in that direction." Morris said that cities and towns "are at a turning point" of peril.

THE BART/MITCH MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY: Gov. Daniels was introduced by Mayor Peterson, who praised Daniels for maintaining "great lines of communications" with IACT and finding "efficient and strong resolutions" to issues facing cities and for "always being an advocate for great fiscal control at the local level." He said the governor had made his staff available for IACT projects. Peterson also praised Daniels for a three-decade old accounting error that cost Indianapolis \$13 million. The state corrected the error last week, writing the city a \$13 million check. Peterson called it a "remarkably efficient and strong resolution."

MITCH, BART CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH: Watching Daniels and Peterson this week, we are still struck by how similar they are once you get beyond the basketball physique (point guard/power forward). Both were top aides to governor/U.S. senators. Both made a lot of money in the private sector. Both attained high office by slaying a ruling dynasty. Both have a decidedly reformist agenda. Before IACT, Daniels encouraged local governments to reform themselves, insisting there are "too many layers and too little accountability." Daniels added, "If no one comes through the door, it will come from the top." And who was the one mayor coming through the consolidation door? Bart Peterson, of course. ♦



Political Report

After 14 trips and 30 days, Bayh trails in N.H., Iowa

By MARK CURRY

WASHINGTON - Since July 2005, Indiana Democrat Evan Bayh has racked up a total of almost 30 days visiting two states considered key to winning his party's presidential nomination.

Last weekend the senator made his fifth trip to New Hampshire and tomorrow he begins his ninth tour of Iowa. According to Democracy In Action statistics, only one other Democrat, John Edwards, has invested more time in both states.

It was a busy week for the New Hampshire Democratic Party with no fewer than five presidential contenders romancing voters at one point or another somewhere in the state. The list of rival suitors included Sen. Chris Dodd (Conn.); Govs. Tom Vilsack (Iowa) and Bill Richardson (N.M.), and former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner.

A two-day swing through the state began on a fortuitous note for Bayh when the Associated Press disseminated an article on Sunday wherein he asserted that Iraq is not the central front in the war on terrorism.

"Iraq is taking the focus away from Afghanistan and Iran," he told reporter Norma Love. "We've diverted so many resources to Iraq." The 500-word article went on to mention the senator's contention that the U.S. needs to begin the process of leaving Iraq by stabilizing the country so more focus can be placed on Afghanistan and Iran.

"We need to say we're not going to be there forever," he said.

Sunday night the former Indiana governor appeared at a "Countdown to Victory" dinner hosted by the Manchester City Democrats. Bayh said his party needs to do a better job of standing up to Republicans on national security and pocketbook issues, according to Riley Yates of the Union Leader. He also presented the group with a check for \$5,000.

Bayh's message earned a warm reception among the 125 in attendance, and news reports of appearances in Nashua and North Hampton were also favorable.

Tomorrow the centrist Democrat is slated to begin a four-day schedule in Iowa with a Friday evening event at the Boone County Brown-Woodard Dinner. Saturday evening he will attend a reception honoring Dubuque County Democrats. Sunday begins with a breakfast for U.S. House candidate Phil Hare in Rock Island, Ill. Bayh will then attend a reception for Scott County Democrats in Davenport, a Get Out The Vote Rally in Coralville, and an appearance

in Ankeny on behalf of the local candidate for state senate. Monday he is slated to appear at separate venues for state senate candidates in Mason City, Cedar Falls, Webster City and Fort Dodge.

Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, another Democrat considered a potential presidential candidate, is also slated to appear in Iowa over the weekend. Obama will campaign in Davenport for Bruce Baley, who is running for a seat in the U.S. House. This will be his second visit to the Hawkeye State - the first generated reams of publicity earlier this month.

Dan Pfeiffer, Bayh's communications director, told HPR the senator's presentation throughout Iowa will be similar to what he offered Democrats in Manchester last week-



Sen. Evan Bayh received local and national media attention during a visit to New Hampshire last weekend. A local television reporter interviewed Bayh during a campaign appearance on behalf of Betsy DeVries, candidate for state senate. State Sen. Lou D'Allesandro appears to the left of this photo. (Bayh FLICKR Photo)

end. According to the Union Leader's coverage of that event, Bayh discussed healthcare, education, economic priorities and the need for Democrats to counter the consistent and politically successful GOP message.

Despite Sen. Bayh's extraordinary efforts, indications are he has yet to win Democrats in the numbers required to finish well in the early contests.

In last Monday's Union Leader, Yates cited State Sen. Lou D'Allesandro who said the Indiana Democrat is not among the first tier of potential candidates.

"I think Bayh's right behind them, but he is behind them," D'Allesandro said.

Bayh has implied he intends to make up his mind about a run over the coming Thanksgiving holiday. Fortunately for him plenty of time remains to try and make up deficits in the polls should he so choose. ♦



Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune -

Questions about the race for Congress in Indiana's 2nd District are pondered now in the national news media, in polls, in the Statehouse and in the White House. Let's consider some of those questions. **Q.** Does that WSBT-Tribune poll show that Congressman Chris Chocola will lose? **A.** No. It indicates that Chocola, the Republican incumbent, is very much vulnerable to the challenge by Democrat Joe Donnelly. Any poll is only a snapshot of opinion at the time it was conducted. It cannot be regarded as a prediction of vote totals on election night. **Q.** What does the Statehouse have to do with the race? **A.** A lot. If local issues are to be significant, as often is the case, the Toll Road and time zone confusion could be factors. Gov. Mitch Daniels is unpopular on those issues in northern parts of the district. Chocola, who had no vote on those issues, would like never to hear "Toll Road" or "daylight time" mentioned. While he won't bash Mitch, he no doubt would prefer that the fellow Republican stay away from St. Joseph and LaPorte counties. The governor can't, however, because he wants to help state legislative candidates who supported his Toll Road deal. **Q.** With President Bush down in popularity, could that hurt Chocola? **A.** Sure. But there were indications in some polls last week that the president's approval rating was climbing a bit, including in Indiana. **Q.** Why? **A.** When the focus is on terrorism, as it has been with the 9/11 anniversary, the president does better. When it's specifically on Iraq, he does worse. That's shown in just about every poll everywhere. ♦

Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union -

I must admit to being a bit of a CNN junkie. We have it on all the time in the newsroom here at the Times-Union and I check in from time to time at home. So I am pretty in tune to CNN's programming. Many times I have seen political analyst/correspondent Bill Schneider on American Morning doing what he does best - analyzing the latest Gallup poll. Lately, at least for the past few months, he has been analyzing how poorly W is perceived by the public. He would explain that W's job approval ratings were in the low 30s - according to the latest poll numbers - and then tell us why. That, certainly, is legitimate news. Usually, you see this a couple times a month, which is when the polls come out. These programs on CNN are out-of-sight, out-of-mind for me. I notice them when they're broadcast, but I don't anticipate them or remember when they're supposed to be on. So when Tuesday rolled by this past week, I didn't think about or miss the Bill Schneider "latest polling data shows" bit on CNN. But there wasn't one. Imagine my surprise, however, when while browsing the Internet on Wednesday I found this little nugget from USA Today. WASHINGTON - Amid falling gas prices and a two-

week drive to highlight his administration's efforts to fight terrorism, President Bush's approval rating has risen to 44% in a new USA TODAY/Gallup Poll. That's his highest rating in a year. The poll also showed likely voters evenly divided between Democratic and Republican candidates for Congress, 48%-48%. Among registered voters, Democrats had a 51%-42% advantage. Maybe CNN did a story on this. Maybe I was in the restroom or something. That's highly unlikely, because they usually run stories over and over. But maybe they only ran this one once while I was getting a coffee refill or something. So please, gentle readers, let me know if any of you saw this on CNN. ♦

COLUMNISTS on Indiana

Leslie Stedman Weiden-

bener, Louisville Courier-Journal- U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel's campaign called last week on four Louisville television stations to stop running a Democrat-sponsored ad accusing the Republican of backing privatization of Social Security. Campaign manager Cam Savage argues the congressman wants no such thing, although Sodrel believes an option for Social Security is letting younger workers put some of their retirement savings into private investment accounts, rather than giving it to the government. "This ad is designed to make seniors believe if they elect Mike Sodrel, he'll put their money in the stock market and roll the dice," Savage said. Sodrel supports no such thing. He wants benefits to remain unchanged for current and near-term retirees. But then, the ad -- the first TV commercial run this year by the committee -- doesn't say otherwise. So television executives in Louisville found Savage's arguments unpersuasive. WDRB-TV station manager Bill Lamb reviewed the ad, Savage's arguments and a response from the Democratic committee. He said he doesn't "like to be judge and jury," although he's willing to pull an inaccurate ad. But in this case, the decision wasn't difficult. "Although the ad may be a distortion of Mike Sodrel's position or a bastardization, they did not make their case," Lamb said. "I don't think there is enough evidence that is at all sufficient to pull this ad." ♦

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal

Gazette - A fellow journalist for a national newspaper, a person I've known for nearly two decades, leaned over with a whispered question during a lull in the press conference. "How old is Hamilton?" she asked. I quickly did some math and came up with my estimate: Mid-70s. "Well, if John McCain can run for president at 70, so could Hamilton," she murmured. Lee Hamilton has become the go-to guy in Washington since his retirement from Congress nearly eight years ago after serving his southeast Indiana constituents for 34 years. ♦



Gallup: Bush gets OBL blame

Trendline No. 1: The recent firestorm over former President Bill Clinton's culpability for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks was fueled on Tuesday when Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice contrasted President Bush's efforts to pursue al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden with Clinton's efforts. Clinton has strongly denied various suggestions that his administration missed key opportunities to kill bin Laden and left the Bush administration without a comprehensive anti-terrorism strategy. However, Bush — whom Clinton says did nothing about al-Qaeda for the first eight months of his presidency — has the bigger image problem with Americans on the issue. According to a recent Gallup Panel survey, the American public puts the primary blame on Bush rather than Clinton for the fact that bin Laden has not been captured. A majority of Americans say Bush is more to blame (53%), compared with 36% blaming Clinton.



Trendline No. 2: The Hostettler campaign cried foul over the Evansville Courier & Press poll that had Democrat Brad Ellsworth leading by 15 percent. We agree. The poll was conducted from Sept. 6-21. That's not a "snapshot," that's a mural.

Trendline No. 3: Openly anxious about grass-roots disaffection from the Republican Party, conservative Christian organizers are reaching for ways to turn out voters this November, including arguing that recognizing same-sex marriage could also limit religious freedom (*New York Times*). Just two years after many conservative Christians exulted that their voter turnout efforts had pushed President Bush to re-election, organizers say their constituents are disengaged. "There is disillusionment out there with Republicans," said James C. Dobson, founder of the conservative Christian broadcaster Focus on the Family and the most influential voice in the movement. "That worries me greatly." At an election-season Values Voters Summit held here by the allied Family Research Council, some conservatives debated whether "maybe losing the Republican majority would teach us a lesson and get our movement back on track," in the words of Rep. Mike Pence. Mr. Pence argued that in the end, Republicans were still preferable to Democrats. "My first inclination was to sit this one out," Dr. Dobson said in an interview, adding that he had changed his mind when he looked at who would become the leaders of Congressional committees if the Democrats took over.

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:** Laura Bush, not GW, will campaign for Chocola next month in South Bend. Both congressional candidates agree that federal spending spun out of control. They differ on how to manage the deficit (**Elkhart Truth**). "It's critical that we control spending and restore fiscal discipline," said Donnelly. Federal spending was one of the topics Donnelly addressed at a Rotary Club meeting in Elkhart on Monday. Congress wastes taxpayer money by offering tax incentives to oil companies and spending money on earmarked projects, said Katie Nee, a campaign manager for the Donnelly campaign. In a phone interview Tuesday, Chocola agreed that Congress spends too much money. "We clearly need to prioritize spending better," he said. "We need to have more accountability and transparency in the way we spend our money." Chocola and Donnelly will debate at 6 p.m. next Tuesday at Rochester HS. While Democrats have largely concentrated their efforts on the political records of Republicans, the Republicans have zeroed in more on candidates' personal backgrounds. Representative Thomas M. Reynolds of New York, the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, said his investigators had been looking into prospective Democratic challengers since the summer of 2005 in a *New York Times* page 1 story that featured a Chocola ad. "These candidates have been out there doing other things — they have never seen anything like this before," Mr. Reynolds said of the Democratic challengers. "We haven't even begun to unload this freight train," Mr. Reynolds said. The *Times* front page features an ad by U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola that shows his challenger and reads: "Joe Donnelly rewards 12 million illegals." The Chocola "Disagree" is posted on the HPI website at www.howeypolitics.com as part of our partnership with IndianaOnMessage. In the ad, Chocola says that he supported President Bush "to cut taxes and protect our nation from terrorists, but on immigration we just disagree." Chocola says the Bush immigration plan was "just not tough enough." Of Donnelly, the ad says, "Joe Donnelly, he supports a path to citizenship for illegal



immigrants. That's amnesty." The ad says that Donnelly "rewards 12 million illegals with citizenship." **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 said at the Thomas R. Marshall Dinner, "We need to look at every single decision and say, 'Is this good for the working families of America?'" (**Columbia City Post & Mail**). Hayhurst cited his biggest areas of concern, namely affordable health care, opening more beds for veterans at VA hospitals, fighting for better jobs for Indiana workers and the need for our state to work toward becoming more energy independent. "We can be a lot better global citizens if we don't have to worry about situations in the Middle East cutting off our oil supply," Hayhurst added. Not only is biodiesel great for Indiana's economy, Hayhurst said, but he adds that there are other options as well. "We can conserve energy and save billions of dollars by bringing back a public rail system," he said. Souder voted today for House passage of the conference report on H.R. 5631, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007, which includes important funding for defense-related employers throughout northeast Indiana. The House-Senate agreement passed the House by a majority of 394-22. Souder had written to the House Appropriations Committee in support of the funding requests. "Each year, through the defense funding bill, Congress and the President work to ensure that our armed services have the equipment they need to perform the most important job the federal government has: protecting Americans," Souder said. "Defense-related employers form a key part of our economy in northeast Indiana; many Hoosiers work at ITT, USSI, and the countless manufacturers of Humvee parts. By supplying the military with the most advanced tools available, these employers are making important contributions to our national defense and the War on Terror." Souder is airing one of the funniest radio ads, giving Hayhurst supporters directions to Grabill, pointing out family landmarks (including a cemetery) along the way. Listen to the ad at www.howeypolitics.com and click on the IndianaOnMessage banner and see the audio ad section.

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:** Hostettler trails Ellsworth, by 15 percentage points in a new poll commissioned by the **Evansville Courier & Press**. The poll of 603 registered voters in Indiana's 8th District shows Ellsworth with 47.4 percent of the vote compared with Hostettler's 31.8 percent. Undecided voters number 16.6 percent, and 4.1 percent refused to answer. A member of Hostettler's re-election campaign dismissed a poll conducted by Indiana State University that showed the Republican incumbent trailing his Democratic challenger by more than 15 points (**Terre Haute Tribune-Star**). The poll, commissioned by the Evansville Courier & Press newspaper, indicated that more than 47 percent of 602 registered voters polled within the 8th District preferred Democrat Brad Ellsworth, compared with a reported 31.8 percent for Hostettler. Stan Barringer, the Hostettler campaign's research director, noted that the Courier & Press refused to release the questions asked to respondents when the poll was conducted between Sept. 6-21. He added that Hostettler's campaign office has received calls from poll respondents concerned with the questions. "Well, it makes a big difference [in the poll's viability] because the Courier is claiming this is not a 'push' poll, which is a method of polling that [asks] forceful, opinionated questions," Barringer said, "but stories we've heard by people who were polled by Indiana State were that some of the questions were forceful." But J. Bruce Baumann, editor for the Courier & Press, said that the Evansville newspaper did not release the questions because the newspaper is writing articles on people's responses all week, and the newspaper did not want to "scoop themselves." While Barringer questioned the methodologies of the ISU poll, he referenced two different polls — a WISH-TV Indiana poll and a poll conducted by Majority Watch — as more "viable" polls, since both polls have released "all the relevant information." The polls indicated a much smaller lead for Ellsworth, who is Vanderburgh County sheriff. Barringer noted that, in both polls, Ellsworth's lead was greater than the polls' margin of error. Matt Weisman, the communications director for Ellsworth's campaign, said that the campaign does not comment on polls. Finally, in Indiana, the NRCC has spent \$364,000 this month on negative advertising, excluding



production costs, against Ellsworth. The GOP also spent \$22,000 on a direct mail piece (**The Hill**). In September, the Democrats have shelled out more than \$240,000 to hit Hostettler on television. **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:** Watch the PBS Lehrer Newhour report on the Hill-Sodrel race at www.howeypolitics.com and click on the IndianaOnMessage banner. In his first TV commercial of this election season, Hill tells voters he believes "marriage between a man and a woman is sacred." (**Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal**). "I could support a federal law defining marriage as that of a man and a woman," Hill said. "But I don't want to use the Constitution as an instrument to ban gay marriage. That's not what the document is about." And that's where Hill differs from Sodrel. He is co-sponsor of the proposed constitutional amendment introduced in the House. "The only way to protect traditional marriage from court overturn is to say so in the Constitution," Sodrel said. Sodrel and Schansberg would like to see the newly reconstituted U.S. Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision that made abortion legal. But Hill worries that would lead to unsafe, back-alley abortions. "I'm not for abortion," Hill said. "But I'm not for repealing *Roe v. Wade* either." Sodrel voted to prevent minors from being coerced into traveling across state lines to get abortions without parental notification or consent. "The decision for a minor to go across state lines for an abortion with the intent of evading parental consent is extremely dangerous and has both emotional and physical effects," Sodrel said. "This bill closes a loophole in the law that addresses an issue our children shouldn't be facing alone. So many activities our sons and daughters are involved in require parental notification. It only makes sense that a parent should have a role in an event as serious as an abortion." **Status:** TOSSUP. ♦

Legislative Races

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:** a top priority in the 2007 General Assembly

session. The **Lafayette Journal & Courier** asked candidates running for General Assembly seats in the Nov. 7 election their thoughts on the subject. Micon said, "I do support state-funded full-day kindergarten for any parent who chooses that option for their child attending a public school. I believe full-day kindergarten should be permanently funded as part of the state school funding distribution formula. I'm not sure at this point how it should be implemented -- I think flexibility will have to be given to local school corporations. All school corporations in the state need to be surveyed to determine if class room space is available." Basham, said, "I do agree with it if it is not mandatory. There are too many parents that have expressed to me that they don't want to send their 5-year-old to school full day. When studies have been done in Indiana and all around, we see ... the greatest impact is on that segment of children who are considered at-risk." **Status:** LEANS D

House District 30: Republican: State Rep. John Smith. Democrat: Ron Herrell. **2002 Results:** Herrell (D) 9,017, Rudolph (R) 6,966, Fridholm (L) 379. **2004 Results:** Smith 12,398, Herrell (D) 11,279. **2006 Forecast:** Daimler-Chrysler is signalling its intent to construct a new transmission plant in Kokomo, giving Smith an opening to talk about Chrysler, Toyota, Honda, BP and other economic development success. Smith said he has spoken with several people in the area that don't want mandatory full-day kindergarten (**Kokomo Tribune**). "There may be mandatory half-day kindergarten," he said. "I understand that it gives an early start on their education, but we have to respect the parents wishes. Parents know their children better than any state or school official." All three legislators were also concerned about how implementing full-day kindergarten could impact local property taxes. Smith said he supports increased state spending on education, but believes the local school boards should be allowed to decide how those funds are spent. When asked if the state should provide the funding for additional classrooms, buses and staffing, Smith said since full-day kindergarten is a state initiative, the dollars should be provided. "I don't want to see a program mandated by the state that would increase property taxes," Smith said. "This is a good opportunity for parents to become more involved in their children's education." **Status:** TOSSUP.

House District 49: Republican: State Rep. John Ulmer. Democrat: Mike Puro. **2004 Results:** Ulmer 17,592. **2006 Forecast:** Democrats don't necessarily see the election as a referendum on Gov. Daniels, despite his tepid showing in public opinion polls (**South Bend Tribune**). "Not in my district," said Mike Puro, the Democratic candidate for state representative from Goshen. "It may be in other districts." "As someone told me a long time ago, politics is all local," said Rep. John Ulmer, Puro's Republican opponent from Goshen. **Status:** TOSSUP

House District 57: Republican: Shelby Coun-



ty 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:** The Indianapolis Chamber endorsed Eberhart. **Status:** TOSSUP

Senate District 11: Republican: State Sen. Joe Zakas. Democrat: Pat McQuade. **2002 Results:** Zakas 24,716. **2006 Forecast:** According to both political parties the Toll Road lease is just one ingredient in a campaign stew with no clear flavor. Others include immigration, daylight-saving time, unstable gasoline prices and property taxes. "All those things ... contribute toward a disgruntled feeling among voters," Sen. Joe Zakas said (**South Bend Tribune**). Zakas, who supported daylight-saving time, said "the political atmosphere is different than I've ever seen it." **Status:** LEANS ZAKAS

Senate District 41: Republican: Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. Libertarian: Kenn Gividen. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. 2002 Results: Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006 Forecast:** Public flogging as a crime deterrent became an issue in 2003, when Walker defended the idea in a 2003 Letter to the Editor in the **Columbus Republic**. A poll shows Walker leading Coriden 46-35 percent. Coriden received the endorsement of the Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana. "We strongly feel that Terry Coriden has the experience and background to best represent the needs and concerns of Indiana's firefighters in the State Senate," said Tom Hanify, president of the PPFUI. "He is a bi-partisan leader who has a unique ability to bring people together around practical and fair solutions to problems. We need his voice in the Statehouse." Walker said in the debate that he would never authorize a law that would allow the punishment, because it has no place in a modern world. However, he said something needs to change, because high recidivism rates demonstrate that the nation's prison system does not work. Coriden challenged Walker, accusing him of flip-flopping on the issue when he discovered voters would never support his stance on flogging. "He meant it (when he said it)," Coriden said. Walker wrote in his Letter to the Editor that "flogging would have a high deterrent factor, be inexpensive, would not keep the perpetrator from working to support himself and any dependents, would be administered swiftly and, most importantly, would alter behavior." The candidates took different stances on control of property taxes. Walker suggested the state "freeze" increases on property taxes, while it looks for ways to improve the system and possibly provide property tax relief to families. Coriden said any reduction in property taxes should coincide with the phase-in of other revenues. Local governments cannot operate without money in place. Coriden said implementing full-day kindergarten is a must for the state to compete, because studies show that students who participate perform better in school. Walker said educa-

tion begins in the home. He said other opportunities in public and private schools also should be examined. On video gambling, Coriden said the state must accept that the activity happens and take advantage of it as a revenue source. Walker said law enforcement should stay on top of the activity and continue to enforce the law. The final debate in the District 41 state Senate race will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Columbus Learning Center's Custer-Nugent Lecture Hall. The Indianapolis Chamber endorsed Coriden. Coriden paid to attend a Daniels PAC fundraiser. "I wanted to send a clear message that I want to work with this governor," he said. (**Indianapolis Star**). "I am a Republican nominated by Republicans in a heavily Republican district," Walker said. "There's no split in the party." Coriden and Gividen disagree. **Status:** TOSSUP

Marion County Prosecutor: Republican: Prosecutor Carl Brizzi. Democrat: Melina Kennedy. **2006 Forecast:** Brizzi's campaign cried foul when Kennedy released an ad with his campaign slogan - "Tested, Tough." Brizzi's campaign accused her a stealing his slogan. That's a new one on us. **Status:** TOSSUP

Statewide Races

Secretary of State: Republican: Secretary of State Todd Rokita. Democrat: Joe Pearson. Libertarian: Mike Kole, Green Party: Bill Stant. **2002 Results:** Rokita (R) 789,261, Fernandez (D) 627,416, Sink-Burris (L) 60,937. **2006 Forecast:** At an IUSB debate, Rokita defended his work during the last four years, and promised to "cut the red tape" to make Indiana more inviting for business while Stant put forward key platforms of the Green Party. Stant explained the need for easier ballot access for minor party candidates. Under current Indiana law, a candidate from a minor party must gather signatures from 2 percent of voters in the latest election. For the 2006 race, that number totaled about 29,544. Stant and Kole want that percentage brought down to half of 1 percent, or about 7,500 signatures — a threshold Stant would have easily surpassed this fall with the 20,000 signatures he gathered. Rokita, on the other hand, didn't see the urgency in changing the current structure of ballot access. Both Pearson and Kole said they were in favor of placing the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, currently overseen by the governor's office, under the secretary of state. But Rokita and Stant denounced the idea of moving the BMV, claiming the switch would not help with election reform and only "switch pictures on the wall," Rokita said. Indiana's new voter identification system, one of the cornerstones of Rokita's term, was also a point of contention. Pearson supported the law, but said the "unintended consequences" of it, like certain groups being turned away at the voting booths, needed to be addressed. **STATUS:** LIKELY ROKITA





Toll road company planning improvements

ELKHART - The company running the Indiana Toll Road is in it to make money, a spokesman said Wednesday night (**Elkhart Truth**). The best way to do that is to make the road even better for drivers. "That's what we always talk about -- improve the asset," Matt Pierce, director of communications for ITR Concession Co., said at the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce's annual transportation reception. "If we have a better road, a smoother road, a safer road, customers are going to drive it." He outlined the key projects listed in the 75-year, \$3.8 billion lease his company -- owned by a Spanish-Australian consortium -- has with the state. By the end of next year, a new electronic tolling system will be in place similar to ones in Illinois, Pennsylvania and New York. Pierce said it will speed up travel because motorists won't have to stop and dig for cash to pay tolls. In the next four years, almost 7 miles of the congested western end of the road will be widened to three lanes in each direction.



Bauer, GiaQuinta lauds Silverman exit

FORT WAYNE - House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer said he thinks the Daniels administration wanted BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman out before the election, "which shows some signs of intelligence. I'm happy for the public because they have suffered so much pain. It's been awful for them." He characterized the changes in general as "having four new holes in the whole new crew." HD80 Democrat Phil GiaQuinta said, "Thursday's announcement by Governor Daniels that BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman is

no longer running the agency is good news for the citizens of Indiana, but it is only the start of the changes that must be made to reform the license branches throughout the State. State Rep. Winfield Moses Jr. noted that the departures could have been spaced out a bit but are expected (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). "There is nothing particularly wrong with it," he said. "Two years is about average."

Rep. Leonard glad to see Silverman go

HUNTINGTON - Republican State Rep. Dan Leonard has also been critical of Silverman and welcomed the news (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). "I want to support the governor, but it's clearly time that (Silverman) goes," he said, noting how bad the commissioner was at public relations. "I don't think there is any question about it. This morning I fielded four calls, and they were all about the BMV. Yesterday I had three. We've had two years to work on it, and it hasn't improved. Customer service is horrible."

Indianapolis Councilman facing charges

INDIANAPOLIS - Councilman Ron Gibson, a Democratic at-large member, was charged with battery against a law enforcement officer, disorderly conduct and public intoxication. A special prosecutor filed the three misdemeanors in Marion Superior Court based on Detective Jean Burkert's accusation that Gibson was drunk and combative outside a Downtown Indianapolis nightclub July 16 (**Indianapolis Star**). If convicted, Gibson, 40, could face a year in jail. Vince Huber, president of the local Fraternal Order of Police union, criticized Gib-

son's alleged treatment of the detective and said Gibson should leave the council. Council minority leader Philip Borst, a Republican, also said Gibson should step down until the matter is resolved.

Dem St. Joe sheriff endorses commissioner

SOUTH BEND - St. Joseph County Sheriff Frank Canarecci, a Democrat, announced Wednesday that he is endorsing Republican County Commissioner Mark Dobson for re-election (**Wensits, South Bend Tribune**). "To be honest, this is a bold move," said Canarecci. Canarecci said he has been contemplating the decision for months, and even called Dobson to see if he would welcome such an endorsement. "He makes his decisions based on what's right instead of strictly partisanship," Canarecci said of Dobson. "I appreciate that."

Dems upset about Statehouse lawn plans

INDIANAPOLIS - An oversight panel is set to vote Friday on a project list that includes \$800,000 to "landscape the lawns adjacent to the Statehouse and install an irrigation system." The project is part of a series of upgrades at the Capitol, but Democrats say the lawn can wait (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). "That money could be better used," said state Sen. Frank Mrvan Jr., D-Hammond. "At home, with your family, you don't buy a fancy painting when your kids are hungry. You don't spend money on luxuries when you don't have the basics, and our basic needs are education and health care." ♦



This Could be Dangerous



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