



Obama seeks beyond distractions

Candidate talks of energy, Sen. Lugar and GOP support

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - A few hours after U.S. Sen. Barack Obama conducted a national press conference to denounce his former pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, he conducted this phone interview

with Howey Politics Indiana. We talked about his personal sacrifices in running, his relationship with Hoosiers,

reaching out to Republicans, and possible roles that Sen. Richard Lugar and former Congressman Lee Hamilton might have with an Obama presidency.

HPI: I see you're going to be back in Indiana at Garfield Park tomorrow (Wednesday)



Obama: I'm looking forward to doing some Indiana campaigning,

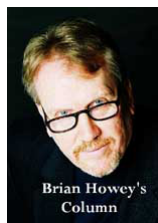
HPI: I watched your press conference this afternoon regarding Rev. Wright. Is there ever a point where

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HPI Analysis: Clinton Obama race see-saws

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - By early this week, you could almost feel the air rushing out of Barack Obama's campaign. While the Howey-Gauge Poll of April 23-24 had Obama with a narrow 47-45 percent lead over Hillary Clinton, later polls, including an April 28 SurveyUSA Poll had Clinton surging to a 52-43 percent lead in Indiana. It came a day before Obama conducted a press conference in North Carolina and denounced the Rev. Jeremiah Wright. The sense on the ground was that a shift was under way. Fort Wayne Journal Gazette Washington columnist Sylvia Smith



“It is time for us to unite behind Barack Obama NOW.”

- Former DNC and Indiana Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew



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Michelle and Barack Obama during their talk at Garfield Park in Indianapolis on Wednesday. Michelle Obama called herself the family "cynic" and brought laughter when she pointed to her husband and said, "This is the hope guy. You really do believe this stuff." (HPI Photo by A. Walker Shaw)

even came out and predicted a Clinton victory.

Mission accomplished for Hillary Clinton, right?

Within the space of 12 hours, Obama picked up two stunning endorsements. The first was from U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, who ran counter to 10 of the county chairs in the 9th CD that endorsed Clinton. The Obama dilemma with Rev. Wright actually prompted Hill to act. "His comments regarding statements made by Reverend Wright showed me another aspect of Senator Obama's leadership, a strength of character and commitment to our nation that transcends the personal. One of the tests of a true leader is his ability and willingness to come to a new conclusion based on new events. Senator Obama did just that yesterday."

But the real stunner came this morning when former Democratic National Chairman Joe Andrew reversed course and endorsed Obama, a shift away from Clinton. "I am convinced that the primary process has devolved to the point that it's now bad for the Democratic Party," Andrew

said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. He said continued support for Hillary Clinton is "a vote to continue this process, and a vote to continue this process is a vote that assists John McCain. While I was hopeful that a long, contested primary season would invigorate our party, the polls show that the tone and temperature of the race is now hurting us."

Andrew said that he himself had been "part of this political theater" when he sparred with Lee Atwater and Karl Rove as DNC chair. "I know how the game is played and that's why I'm inspired by somebody who says, 'You know, we don't have to play the game.'"

It may have been a payback for another former DNC chair, Terry McAuliffe, who came to Indianapolis for a Democratic Leadership Council event in 2001 and embarrassed Andrew when he told the conference how poorly the DNC had been run under Andrew's tenure.

Andrew has a propensity for making sudden, controversial moves. In the summer of 2003 when he was running for governor of Indiana,



he put Bren Simon on his ticket. She dropped off the ticket in September after the death of Gov. Frank O'Bannon, delivering that message via the news media. Andrew later dropped out of the race himself with Gov. Joe Kernan re-entered the 2004 campaign. Simon is now an ardent Hillary Clinton supporter and funder.

Asked this morning if he had called Sen. Bayh or Clinton to inform them of his decision, Andrew said, "That's just the same old political theater. I didn't call Barack Obama and ask for permission. Nor did I call Hillary Clinton and ask for forgiveness. Or Bill Clinton or Evan Bayh. That to me is this old part of political theater that we need to make these perfunctory calls where everybody knows what people are going to say. I thought it would be good grace not to call Evan Bayh or Hillary Clinton and then report back to reporters what they would say and use it against them. It would be unfair to them and unfair to the process."

Andrew accused Clinton of "pandering" on the gasoline tax, even though Gov. O'Bannon used it in July 2000 where it helped him forge an insurmountable lead over U.S. Rep. David McIntosh for re-election.

The two endorsements represent a potential shift that won't likely be gauged until the next set of polls coming over the weekend. In HPI's analysis, Clinton appears to have clear advantages in the 5th, 8th, and 9th CDs. Obama is favored in the 1st and 7th CDs. That leaves the 2nd (South Bend, Mishawaka, Kokomo), 3rd (Fort Wayne and Northeastern Indiana), 4th (the Frankendistrict that straddles the college towns of Bloomington and West Lafayette), and the 6th (with the Rust Belt cities of Muncie, Anderson, Richmond along with Columbus) in play. The winner of the 6th CD gets an extra delegate.

A win for Obama in tandem with North Carolina would be the death knell for the Clinton campaign. A Clinton Indiana win statewide would keep her flame alive, but even in that scenario, Obama would still keep a significant delegate lead, though it would continue to fuel the "he can't close the deal" sentiments percolating in the national media.

If nothing else, the Hill and Andrew endorsements shifted the story away from Rev. Wright, who almost every observer believes was detrimental to the Obama campaign by providing what the candidate calls the ultimate "distraction." That controversy came as Obama shifted gears, spending last weekend playing basketball (and visiting the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame with George McGinnis), and offering more intimate settings,



**Former DNC and Indiana Chairman
Joe Andrew**

such as his lunch with a Beech Grove family and a small roundtable meeting at Garfield Park in Indianapolis. These events were designed to accent Obama's Midwestern roots.

Clinton and Obama sparred over gas prices, with Clinton calling for a gas tax holiday while Obama called it a "gimmick" designed to win an election instead of a stable energy strategy.

Former President Bill Clinton was preparing to head into Republican territory in North-eastern Indiana today (after campaigning in GOP strongholds such as Martinsville, Shelbyville and Hartford City earlier in the week), lending credence of the Howey-Gauge analysis that the 10 percent Republicans and 9 percent independents likely to cross over could determine the Democratic

presidential primary winner.

Obama countered by rerunning an earlier TV ad that shows him with U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. The Howey-Gauge Poll also brought more credibility to Rush Limbaugh's mischief in calling for GOP voters to vote for Clinton, believing that she would be an easier opponent in the fall.

Turnout will be the key. The Obama campaign signed up 90,000 of the 200,000 newly registered voters. A good percentage of the remainder are also expected to support the Illinois senator. The Obama campaign was organized earlier than Clinton. It also expects to use its Thiesen Polygram models to forge an African-American turnout in the 1st and 7th CDs, along with vital cities such as Muncie, South Bend, Anderson, Richmond, Kokomo, Fort Wayne, Marion, Lafayette and other cities with large black populations. The Obama camp can identify undecided voters and get friendly neighbors to make a pitch within hours. It has also employed a barber shop/beauty shop strategy for turning out the African-American vote (male activists go to beauty shops; females to barber shops). These are often the social networking centers in black neighborhoods.

All this leads to what will be one of the most sensational political weekends in Hoosier history. Both Obama and Clinton are expected to maintain intense schedules leading up to Saturday night. Hillary Clinton will campaign in Brownsburg, Jeffersonville and Terre Haute today. Obama is headed to Columbia City and South Bend, with a Friday stop planned for Northwest Indiana. The Clintons and John Mellencamp will have a rally on the lawn at White River State Park on Saturday. On Sunday, both Clinton and Obama will speak at the Indiana Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner. By then, there will be a new set of polls that will statistically document Indiana's barn burner. ❖



Obama Interview, from page 1

you wonder whether it's all worth such personal sacrifices?

Obama: Well, when you run for president, one of the things you sign on to is the fact the American people want to know who you are and all aspects of you. Some of them get blown out of proportion. Some of them get magnified. You have to take it as it comes. I think I was very clear about today. My former pastor doesn't speak for me and doesn't reflect my views. It was sad to see what happened yesterday, yet I don't want that to be a distraction about what this campaign is about. The American people are struggling and they need help.

HPI: I don't want this to be a distraction either. One thing I'd like to know is, when you were an organizer

those plant closings could be and how much work had to be done in order to make sure we improved on the opportunities and possibilities for people living in those areas. The only way to do that was to get people to cooperate across racial lines, across community lines, to insist on more accountability from government. One thing we failed to do was to get significant reinvestment in the community, and that's an area in which I think the federal government has to step up, putting in place the kind of infrastructure improvements, and also the research and development that can trigger new sources of jobs, of clean energy, bio tech, or a whole host of other job creators that so far the Bush administration has neglected.

HPI: You moved to the South Side of Chicago in the early '80s?

Obama: It was 1985 when I moved there. I've been living there now for 23 years with some law school in between.

HPI: What prompted that decision coming out of Harvard?

Obama: Actually, here's the sequence. I went to Columbia, graduated, and I was working for a financial magazine in New York and then decided to go on to some sort of public service. That's when I got the job in organizing. So I did my organizing work before I went to law school. After I graduated from law school I went back to Chicago, organized a voter registration drive that helped Bill Clinton and Carol Moseley Braun get elected. It was afterward that I joined a civil rights firm and was elected to the state senate and then the United States Senate.

HPI: We were just in the field, and one of the things showing is that Indiana Democrats seem evenly split 46-46.

Obama: Yes.



Sen. Barack Obama makes a point during a community round table at Garfield Park in Indianapolis on Wednesday. The Obama campaign is putting the candidate in more intimate settings to reinforce his "Midwestern sensibilities." (HPI Photos by A. Walker Shaw)

on the South Side of Chicago, did your activities spill over into Indiana?

Obama: We were working with churches and Catholic parishes not only on the south side of Chicago, but the southeast side, Hegewisch, spilling into south suburban areas. Because these were a lot of Catholic parishes as well as Baptist churches and other denominations, there were definitely members who were coming over from Indiana or had moved out to Indiana. The economy was all one piece there. Everybody was concerned about what was happening to the steel industry. I really learned how devastating

will be a lot of independent and Republican crossover. What would your message be to Indiana Republicans? I also understand you made a quick stop at Republican headquarters here in Indianapolis.

Obama: I was in an editorial board meeting at the Indianapolis Star and had a chance to shake some hands afterward and it turns out I was across the street from the state Republican Party. I knew a couple of guys outside, and they were bragging about the fact that Indianapolis has a Republican mayor, and I said you've had a couple of good ones. Dick Lugar was a good mayor. I do think



Republicans, like Democrats, are looking for something different. I think they are disillusioned with George Bush's performance on the economy. I think they are concerned about the policies, and more people are struggling to pay their health care bills, people are losing their jobs, people are losing their homes, and Republicans, like all Americans, I think, are concerned about our foreign policy and the war in Iraq. So we have an opportunity to reach out to these Republicans and get them involved in a new movement to really govern with common sense and pragmatism as opposed to governing with ideology the way George Bush has. That means we have to reach out. I can't be a polarizing figure. I think one of the things I've been able to do is attract independents and Republicans to get things done, and that's hopefully what I'm going to do as president of the United States.

HPI: We've heard Rush Limbaugh talk about Republicans supporting Hillary Clinton, which reminds me of some old Mike Royko columns that said to lie to the pollsters. Are you concerned about that kind of mischief on the fringe of what looks like a close election?

Obama: You never know what they are going to be up to. But I can't worry about that. I have to focus my time on making sure we do everything we can to get new voters to the polls, attract independents as well as Republicans. Talk about the very specific ways we are going to change politics to make people's lives better. All of us are concerned about jobs; all of us are concerned about gas prices, all of us are concerned about health care. Sen. Clinton and I have been talking about how to make these changes, whether it is investing in infrastructure or investing in green technology jobs or making sure college is more affordable through tuition credits. So many of these changes depend on moving beyond the special interest politics that has dominated Washington, and that's going to be one of my top priorities as president and that's the campaign that I've run and it's been very different from

Sen. Clinton's.

HPI: I attended your campaign kickoff in Springfield and you mentioned two political figures: Abraham Lincoln and Dick Lugar. Tell me about your relationship with Sen. Lugar.

Obama: Sen. Lugar is a wonderful senator and a thoughtful person. He and I developed a close working relationship surrounding issues of weapon proliferation. We took a trip together to Russia. We had a common view that one of the most important things we need to do is lock down loose nuclear weapons, and he has obviously been a great leader with Sam Nunn on that issue. But we've got to continue to make sure we make further progress. We could do an enormous amount in four years if we put in more resources. These are the kinds of issues Dick and I worked on. We also worked on issues surrounding alternative energy and he has been a great leader on that as well.

HPI: I had the opportunity to travel to Russia and Ukraine with Sens. Nunn and Lugar last summer. Will you make the Nunn-Lugar Act and those types of issues, including conventional weapons, a priority in an Obama presidency?

Obama: It will be a top priority. It will be something I care deeply, deeply about. We can defeat terrorists who are equipped conventionally. The devastation they could do with weapons of mass destruction would be unimaginable and we have to make sure we are doing everything we can do in that scenario.

HPI: Could you describe the kind of role that people like Sen. Lugar and Lee Hamilton will have in your administration. Will they have your ear?

Obama: Sam Nunn, Lugar, Hamilton: I think they represent a bipartisan tradition of a common sense, realistic foreign policy. It is the kind of foreign policy I intend to pursue. ❖



Bayh, Parker put the squeeze on Democrat county chairs

By RYAN NEES

KOKOMO - Yesterday's announcement from the Clinton Campaign that it had secured the endorsements of 40 Indiana Democratic Party county chairs was the result of a months-long effort by Sen. Evan Bayh and state party officials to mobilize the party's grassroots machinery in support of the New York senator.

The Clinton camp has relied primarily on Bayh and state party chairman Dan Parker to secure endorsements from legislators, mayors, and county chairs in an effort that has encompassed personal phone calls, dinner dates, and sometimes acrimonious arm-twisting. The covert organizing has miffed Obama supporters and impartial party leaders hoping that neutrality will mitigate post-primary fractures in the party.

Yet in recent weeks, the work has paid off for Senator Clinton, who has even welcomed a rash of once-neutral leaders who are succumbing to private pressure in increasing numbers.

Parker began the recruitment effort for Clinton when Bayh announced his endorsement of her nine months after abandoning his own presidential ambitions in 2006. A month later, Parker had enlisted 17 others, including the chairs of five of Indiana's nine congressional districts and two other super-delegates (Parker himself is one).

"Behind the scenes it's been interesting," said Tim Southworth, the chair of Indiana's sixth congressional district, who remained neutral until yesterday. He received a call from Parker the week Bayh endorsed, but withheld his support so that he could "hear both sides of the story." He acknowledged that party pressure since played a part in his decision to go public.

Southworth's but one official whose endorsement plans have changed recently and suddenly. Of the 30 county chairs and party officials that HPI interviewed for

this story, seven who were once steadfastly neutral have since endorsed Clinton. None has endorsed Obama.

John Bonecutter, the Clinton County chairman, last month expressed bewilderment at the endorsements of other officials. "I don't know why they would do that before the primary," he said. "I wouldn't want to favor one or the other in my position. I would not presume to endorse in a public forum of any kind." Yesterday, Bonecutter endorsed Clinton.



A jovial Hillary Clinton appeared before 3,000 people at Kokomo Wednesday night. (HPI Photo by Ryan Nees)

"If you endorse somebody, then you're saying, 'This is my candidate, and we're not even going to work for you,'" said Sandra Tyler, chair of the Fulton County Democratic Party. "I don't think that's the way it should be. We never have endorsed and it's been my policy for the last eight years that we do not endorse anybody in the primary. Everybody has a chance . . . [Otherwise] that's basically closing the door to the other candidate." Tyler, too, has since endorsed Hillary Clinton.

The other capricious chairs have acknowledged the pressure they've come under. The state party is supporting Hillary, formerly neutral Clay County Chairman Joseph Broyles said, adding at the time, "I feel that pressure."

Bayh has implicitly cast his conversations in personal terms, arguing -- without arguing -- that Clinton's nomination could earn him the vice presidential nomination. "There's been the message sent out that Bayh is on the short list if Hillary wins," Mike Adkins, the chair of the Hancock Democratic Party, said. And as the de

facto leader of the Indiana Democratic Party, Bayh's circle, with Parker in the lead on the ground, controls the purse strings of the party accounts that vulnerable mayors and legislators (of which there are many) perennially count on for re-election in increasingly expensive contests. Adkins characterized Clinton's Indiana operation as "top-bottom," Obama's as "bottom-up."

The pressure generated by Bayh, in particular, has weighed heaviest on the chairs of Indiana's largest counties, whose support he sought first and most aggressively. One chair was invited by Clinton to lunch with Senator Bayh and Chairman Parker. Later Bayh and second district chairman Butch Morgan met with the district's chairs on behalf of the Clintons.

"I know that the state party seems to be lining



up behind Mrs. Clinton," said Shari Mellin, who attended the meeting and is chairwoman of the Elkhart Democratic Party. "We've definitely been asked to formally support Mrs. Clinton . . . I do think it's a mistake to make an endorsement like that. What are they going to do if Hillary doesn't win Indiana? If Barack Obama wins, that would be an awkward situation. I just think it's a mistake to endorse when you have two good candidates running." Mellin adds that there were no "strong arm tactics," but expressed surprise when Parker toured with former President Clinton around Indiana. Yesterday Parker accompanied Bayh Chief of Staff Tom Sugar to a campaign rally with Clinton in Kokomo.

Parker long ago abandoned any pretense of neutrality, using his position as chair to disseminate Clinton talking points to media outlets, adopting the Clintonian lingo for superdelegates -- "automatic delegates" -- in a March interview with the South Bend Tribune and later telling Jim Shella on Indiana Week in Review that Clinton's prolonged campaign only benefited the party.

Parker and the other chairs are careful to note that their endorsements are "personal," and don't officially constitute an endorsement of the organization they represent. But few party officials not working in state headquarters believe it. "I know that the state party wants to deliver votes for Hillary," said Henry County Chair Steve Clark, who fears that the leadership's activist role could deepen divisions within the party "if they make such a hard push."

"I don't feel like I can endorse as a regular voter, because I'm the county chair, and people know that," said Elkhart Chair Mellin. "If they say Shari Mellin is for Obama, and even if I say, 'This is not the party's endorsement; it's a personal endorsement,' let's face it, who cares if it's my personal endorsement? The reason they look to me at all is because I'm the county chair."

Every other chair HPI spoke to echoed the same concerns, fearing party squabbling in a primary would tip the party over a precipice of angry disaster in what has emerged as the most promising Democratic electoral year in decades. "I owe it to the Democrats to allow the candidates to have equal opportunities and equal access," said Boone County Chair Jim Whelan, who expressed optimism at the prospect of the "rebirth" of his county's party.

In Indiana, the Democratic primary is closer than any in recent memory. Yet Clinton has enjoyed near unanimous support from the party's pure-bred, luring four of the state's superdelegates almost immediately and leveraging Sen. Bayh's influence to elicit a mind-numbing string of local endorsements. Despite this, Obama continues to keep Indiana within the margin of error in the latest Howey-

Gauge poll of the state.

Now the optimism expressed by Whelan is waning, and officials like Newton County Chair Terri Pasierb say that damage to the party has already been done as feelings harden and the campaigns grow more personal.

The 9th CD has become especially volatile. District Chairman Mike Jones sought permission to endorse Clinton from his district's county chairs at three organizational meetings in a row, getting rebuffed each time, according to Jefferson County Chair Jim Melton. Finally Jones endorsed yesterday anyway, departing on the same day from Baron Hill, the congressman whose interests Jones is primarily tasked with looking after, but who bucked Bayh to announce his endorsement of Obama.

Bayh fundraiser Dean Boerste immediately began the retribution against Hill, distributing a mass e-mail to party insiders that angrily accused Hill of "defying all political logic" and threatening "damage to Congressman Hill's re-election efforts." The message encouraged recipients to call Hill's office and express their "concerns of [Hill] making any endorsements," advising the congressman to "stay focused on his re-election."

The question of neutrality has become important as Democrats grow increasingly weary of the prospect of a drawn-out nomination fight between Clinton and Obama. Obama's pledged delegate lead became nearly mathematically insurmountable for Clinton over two months ago, but still her campaign persists amid sinking poll numbers for Obama, who has been unable to quell the controversy swelling around inflammatory sermons of the senator's former pastor.

Continued doubts about Obama, combined with the meteoric rise of a Clinton campaign, is perhaps the worst-case scenario for the Democratic Party, whose leaders will confront pressure to abandon Obama in the face of electability fears as well as pressure not to alienate the millions of new voters Obama has lured to the party.

Yet instead of uniting around Obama, even as Clinton supporters acknowledge he is the favorite for the nomination, the party continues to further divide, a fact exhibited this morning by the stunning defection from Clinton of former Democratic National Committee Chairman Joe Andrew, as consummate a Hoosier Clinton and Bayh devotee as Parker.

Now Andrew is "convinced that the primary process has devolved to the point that it's now bad for the Democratic Party," and appeals to Democrats to "heal the rift in our party."

He does it -- how else? -- with an endorsement. ❖



Bayh hopes his organization can deliver the state for Clinton. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



With Hill's endorsement, Obama gets Blue Dog nod

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON - Picking up the endorsement of Rep. Baron Hill (D-9th CD) six days before the Indiana primary provides Sen. Barack Obama, D-Illinois, some cover against attacks that he is too liberal for Hoosier voters, even Democratic ones.

Hill's move, however, immediately spurred the Republican congressional campaign arm to brand Hill as a liberal. It also risks raising the ire of another conservative Hoosier Democrat, Sen. Evan Bayh, a strong supporter of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Obama's rival for the Democratic nomination.

But for now, Hill's backing raises Obama's super delegate count to 246, and puts in his column someone who has worked hard to burnish his conservative credentials. That might help Obama tamp down criticism that he is elitist, based on remarks he made about working class people at a San Francisco fundraiser.

Hill's backing might also help further distance Obama from the former pastor of his Chicago church, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, who burst back onto the political scene earlier this week with provocative speeches in Detroit and Washington.

In his remarks, Wright asserted that America has committed terrorist acts, and may have brought the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on itself, and that the government unleashed AIDS on minority communities, two accusations from previous sermons that roiled Obama's campaign when they were aired on YouTube earlier this year.

In a March speech on racial relations, Obama criticized Wright but did not disown him. This week, Obama rebuked Wright more forcefully, saying he was "outraged" by his statements and that "they certainly don't portray accurately my values and beliefs."

The Hill endorsement helps assuage worries about collateral damage from Wright among superdelegates. Although Obama is picking them up at a rapid clip, Clinton still leads in that crucial category.

Superdelegates may determine the nominee if neither Obama nor Clinton can wrap up the nomination before the party's convention in August.

But on the heels of another Wright controversy, Obama can claim support from a superdelegate who rep-

resents a rural, conservative southeast Indiana district that voted for President Bush in 2004.

"I am pleased that Senator Obama clearly and unequivocally denounced Reverend Wright's remarks," Hill said in a statement on Wednesday. "Hoosiers don't feel that way about our country, I don't feel that way about our country and Senator Obama made it abundantly clear that he doesn't feel that way either."

Hill becomes the second member of the Hoosier congressional delegation to endorse Obama, following newly elected Rep. Andre Carson (D-9th CD), who won a special election in March for the seat that was held by his late grandmother, former Rep. Julia Carson. The other Democratic members of the delegation, Reps. Pete Viscloskey, Joe Donnelly and Brad Ellsworth, have not made presidential endorsements.

Like Carson, Hill followed the lead of his political mentor in joining the Obama camp. Former Rep. Andy Jacobs endorsed Obama before Carson did. And former Rep. Lee Hamilton announced his Obama support in advance of Hill's decision to do the same.

The endorsement comes with risks for Hill. Indiana has become a vital swing state in determining the Democratic nominee. The winner will not forget who helped him -- or her -- after the votes are tallied. In addition, regardless of the presidential outcome, Bayh will control the Indiana Democratic party for the foreseeable future. Crossing him may cause problems for Hill for

years to come.

But Hill, who first won his congressional seat in 1998 and has held it except for 2004-06 when he lost to former GOP Rep. Mike Sodrel, likely owes less to Bayh for his political comeback than the freshmen Donnelly and Ellsworth do for their ascendance.

Hill seems to believe his gamble will pay off because Hoosiers will embrace Obama, who he says is an antidote to "partisan gridlock."

"The stakes are just too high," Hill said. "We cannot continue to pursue the same politics of personal destruction we have engaged in for a generation....Senator Obama has the capability to change the tone and tenor of politics in Washington."

Hill may be able to help change perceptions of Obama as a liberal. A member of the Blue Dog Democrats, Hill is a champion of so-called pay-go rules that require Congress to offset tax cuts with spending reductions or tax increases elsewhere in the budget. Hill points to this policy as an example of his fiscal conservatism.

Leaving aside the fact that such spending rectitude



Sen. Obama campaigning for Democrats Brad Ellsworth, Baron Hill and Joe Donnelly. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



could undermine Obama's call for universal health care, an alliance with Obama may tarnish Hill's conservative sheen.

The National Republican Congressional Committee attacked Hill for his endorsement on Wednesday, citing Osama's "radical agenda" that includes "an assault" on gun rights, opposition to partial birth abortion, support of driver's licenses for illegal immigrants and a push to raise taxes and institute "government-run health care."

"Baron Hill's decision to side with the most lib-

eral member of the United States Senate, who recently claimed that people 'cling' to their religion and the Second Amendment because they are bitter is an affront to Indiana voters," said NRCC spokesman Ken Spain in a statement. "In a district that will undoubtedly vote for John McCain in November, Baron Hill has just latched his political fortune to a far-left liberal extremist...Hill's endorsement is mind-boggling and it is proof-positive of just how out of touch he is with the values and interests of his constituents." ❖

2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels, Democrat: Jim Schellinger, Jill Long Thompson. **1996**

Results: O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Results:**

Daniels (R) 1,302,912, Kernan (D) 1,113,900, Gividen (L) 31,644. **2008 Forecast:** Howey-Gauge Poll has Thompson leading Schellinger 45-27 percent. Slam dunk, right?

Here's how we assess this race. Both campaigns appear to be on similar footing on TV ads. Thompson is creaming Schellinger on earned media. The

Schellinger campaign has been absolutely abysmal on earned media. The candidate toured the state with John Gregg and a Columbus school board member trying to explain the whole lobbyist/architect story. There were complaints from Schellinger's

old business partner at Schenkel-Shultz complaining about photos used in the Thompson ads. That was fuel for the blogs that will have no impact on reality. Thompson's attack ad on Schellinger over "lobbying" and property taxes was designed to draw a hard distinction. Schellinger has

been up on TV two months and as Howey-Gauge noted, has abysmal recognition levels. This is a message problem. Schellinger looks to have a significant edge on voter out-reach. The campaign is targeting more than 200 entire precincts with more than 200,000 calls coming through 14 UAW phone banks. Thompson is using her Steelworker allies, but they are not nearly as formidable as the UAW.

We believe that Schellinger cuts into Thompson's lead in the final week due to this outreach. Schellinger's problem is that it may not be enough to cut into the outflows of the Clinton (older females) and Obama (African-Americans) who will bring votes to Thompson. This may be one race in a generation where GOTV and voter out-reach may be negated by outside forces. Thompson continues to pick up key endorsements including, including Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez, State Sen. Connie Sipes and 1984 Democratic gubernatorial nominee Wayne Townsend (Go get



'em, Wayne). We don't have an engaged general election. A Democrat needs to get into the 75 or 80 percent range in order to draw a clear contrast with Gov. Daniels, and both Thompson and Schellinger are well below that threshold. Schellinger has shifted gears a bit, now indicating he's

"open" to capping or suspending the sales tax on gasoline (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Indiana is one of only a handful of states nationwide that applies the state sales tax to gasoline in addition to state and federal gas taxes that pay for road improvements. Sales taxes collected on gas purchases in Indiana go to the state general fund to finance basic governmental services. Jill Long Thompson, who is running against Schellinger to be the Democratic nominee for governor, proposed in early April capping the state sales tax on gas at \$2.75 a gallon. At that time, the cost of the proposal was estimated to be \$100 million, but as gas prices increase, so does the cost of the program.

"We have to make responsible decisions and not knee-jerk decisions in an election year to try to win voters over," Schellinger said of the proposal during the only debate between the candidates. But on an Indianapolis radio show Wednesday morning, he said he is "open" to the idea of at least a suspension of the sales tax on gasoline. Campaign spokeswoman Jennifer Wagner defended Schellinger's position Wednesday. "He never ever said he was opposed to the plan," she said. "He said it was a political gimmick and criticized the price tag, but that doesn't mean he wasn't open to the idea." Primary Status: Leans Thompson

2008 Congressional

Congressional District 5: Republican:

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, Dr. John McGoff, Clayton Alfred.

Democrat: Chester Kelsey, Mary Etta Ruley, Kenny Stall.

Geography: Media Market: Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend. People: Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. 2006 Republican Primary Result: Burton 61,150, Alfred 6,869, Wakley 4,822. 2006 General Result: Burton (R) 133,118, Carr (D) 64,362,



Sharlow (L) 7,431, Miller (I) 18. **2008**

Forecast: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, Dr. John McGoff, Clayton Alfred. Democrat: Chester Kelsey, Mary Etta Ruley, Kenny Stall. **2008 Outlook:** As we noted at the Howey-Gauge Poll Briefing on Tuesday, McGoff has a great fav/unfav ratio, but with 48 percent name ID, compared to 98 percent for Rep. Burton, he's just not in a position to pull off the upset. Burton is running TV ads on immigration (he's against amnesty and for building a wall) and a second one that assails the "liberal" Barack Obama. Burton's internals are similar to Howey-Gauge. McGoff is running his "integrity matters" ads in the Indianapolis media market. **Primary status:** Likely Burton

Congressional District

7: Democrats: U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, State Rep. Carolene Mays, State Rep. David Orentlicher, Dr. Woodrow Myers, Joseph Stockett III, Frances Nelson Williams, Larry Ledford, Pierre Pullins. **Republican:** State Rep. Jon Elrod, Cat Ping, Lawrence Shouse **2008 Outlook:** Carson campaign is seeing similar internals to Howey-Gauge Poll that had Rep. Carson leading 45-27%. Myers has upped his personal spending on the 7th Congressional District primary race to \$1.6 million (Indianapolis Star). Myers, a multimillionaire, reported to the Federal Election Commission this week that he has loaned his campaign \$356,000 on top of nearly \$1.3 million in previous loans. Myers is one of six Democrats hoping to defeat Rep. Andre Carson, D-Indianapolis, on Tuesday for the Democratic nomination in the district. State Rep. David Orentlicher, another challenger, previously reported loaning his campaign \$327,000. **Primary Status:** Leans Carson

9TH CD: Republican: Mike Sodrel. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, Gretchen Clearwater, Lendall B. Terry, John Bottorff. **2008 Outlook:** Hill reported \$1 million cash on hand. His endorsement by Obama will be well received in Bloomington, where he has much support but sometimes takes criticism from Democrats who say he is not liberal enough. The Obama endorsement scratches that itch. **General Status:** Tossup

2008 Indiana Legislature

Trendline No. 1: Over the past three primary election cycles, we saw major upsets (Sen. Steve Johnson in 2002, Larry Borst in 2004, and Bob Garton in 2006). We think that string breaks this cycle. While State Sens. Luke



Sen. Meeks is a possible summer resignation due to health reasons. Another senator - Glenn Howard (left) was unable to attend the last legislative session. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Kenley, Connie Lawson, Beverly Gard and Teresa Lubbers all have primary opponents, we don't see any upsets brewing at this point.

Trendline No. 2: That is not to say that by the time the Senate reconvenes, there won't be a significant presence missing. Numerous informed and reliable Statehouse sources tell HPI that Sen. Bob Meeks has suffered another stroke. He hasn't scheduled his annual golf outing. He is contributing chunks of his campaign war chest to other campaigns. Many believe that Meeks will likely resign this summer. Senate President Long's appointment of Sen. Brandt Hershman to the budget advisory committee is seen by some as the beginning of a transition in the Senate budget apparatus. There are other changes coming to the Senate Commerce Committee, which lost State Sen. David Ford to cancer this year. Sen. Ronnie Alting is queued up to assume the Commerce chair. By next January, we expect significant new roles in Senate Budget and Commerce.

HD1: Democrat: State Rep. Linda Lawson, Raymond L. Fletcher III. **2008 Outlook:** We think Lawson wins this primary. She has faced other intense primary challenges in the past and prevailed. **Primary Status:** Leans Lawson.

HD3: Democrat: State Rep. Charlie Brown, Bryan Bullock. **2008 Outlook:** We think Rep. Brown wins this primary. **Primary Status:** Likely Brown

HD15: Republican: State Rep. Don Lehe, Richard Niemeyer, Lon Childress. **2008 Outlook:** We keep hearing that Lehe has a primary battle on his hands from Niemeyer, but we have no evidence how intense the chal-



lenge is. Until we hear differently, we believe that Lehe returns. **Primary Status:** Leans Lehe.

HD24: Republican: State Rep. Rich McClain, Cass Commissioner Rick Eller. **2008 Outlook:** Local sources tell us that McClain has a real challenge on his hands. Key problem could be the Carroll County portion of his district. That county is facing a huge fiscal crisis and there is speculation that the blame will be directed toward the Indiana General Assembly and, by association, McClain. **Primary Status:** Leans McClain.

HD49: Republican: State Rep. John Ulmer, Wes Culver. **2008 Outlook:** This looks like it will be the best chance at an incumbent legislator losing. Culver will benefit from the consortium of business and social groups we reported last week (Indiana Chamber, Indiana Manufacturers, Right to Life, Realtors) who endorsed Culver. WFRN, an Elkhart Christian radio station, is running a station editorial next to all Ulmer ads disputing that he is not pro-family as Ulmer's ads say. **Primary Status:** Leans Culver.

HD50: Republican: State Rep. Dan Leonard, Terry Abbett, Gary Snyder. **2008 Outlook:** We think Leonard returns. Blogs are raising questions about the Snyder candidacy. **Primary Status:** Leans Leonard.

H62: Republican: Jamie Jo Harris, Brook Tarr, Daniel Patton, Judy Coleman. **2008 Outlook:** This looks like a race between Tarr and Harris. **Primary Status:** Tossup.

HD90: Republican: State Rep. Mike Murphy, Matthew Hamner. **2008 Outlook:** Murphy joined Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi on his fetal homicide initiative. We are keeping a close eye on this race. Hamner is the brother of Johnson County Prosecutor Lance Hamner. This is a big, well-connected political family who have the capability to press Murphy. Murphy got a rare primary endorsement from Gov. Daniels and now Brizzi is helping. But we aren't sure he realized in time the peril Hamner presents. Key battleground will be Perry Township. Hamner has raised only \$10,000. **Primary Status:** Leans Murphy.

SD12: Republican: John Urb, Joe Guerrero, Carlin Yoder. **2008 Outlook:** Urb, who owns a security company from Goshen, is the leading contender to succeed State Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, who is retiring. Yoder is a private Mennonite school administrator. **Primary Status:** Likely Urb.

SD20: Republican: State Sen. Luke Kenley, Ken Geesaman. **2008 Outlook:** Sen. Kenley was a chief architect of the agreement as chairman of the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee (Indianapolis Star). The Noblesville Republican, who hadn't faced a primary challenge during his 16 years in office, said he's been campaigning door to door almost since the end of the session in mid-March. "I've gotten a pretty good reception," Kenley said. "I think a lot of that is because I was so heavily involved in help-

ing bring property taxes down on a permanent basis." His opponent, Ken Geesaman, argues the solution of "raising taxes with the promise of a tax cut later on is a typical, political ploy" that voters are angry about. "There's a general feeling of distrust from the people I've talked to," said Geesaman, a manufacturer's representative. "They're somewhere between skeptical and cynical about the people in the General Assembly." **Primary status:** Safe Kenley

SD24: Republican: State Sen. Connie Lawson, John Gootee. **2008 Outlook:** Lawson has treated the challenge seriously, gotten key endorsements, had good presence at her Lincoln Days and we expect her to return. **Primary Status:** Safe Lawson.

SD30: Republican: State Sen. Teresa Lubbers, Ken Morgan. **2008 Outlook:** "These are not entitlement seats," said Lubbers, R-Indianapolis (Indianapolis Star). "We have to earn them." Each of the challengers to the four incumbents cited the state's property tax problem as a driving reason for their candidacy. Tax bills last year doubled and even tripled in parts of the state, including Marion County. The increases caused widespread anger among homeowners. "The property taxes were the trigger event for me, because this whole crisis should have been anticipated and prevented. There's no excuse for it," said Ken Morgan, a retired public affairs consultant who is running against Lubbers. Lubbers, who chairs the Senate Education and Career Development Committee, represents the area often referred to as ground zero of the property tax crisis: Meridian-Kessler, the Northside neighborhood where taxes skyrocketed. "I think it helps I actually live in that area myself," she said. "I can honestly say I know exactly what you're talking about because the same thing happened to me on a personal level." Morgan, who is running against Lubbers, lives just a couple of blocks away. He knows the odds are stacked against him with an opponent who has nearly \$50,000 more in campaign cash to spend. But for Morgan, the race is about more than just the result. "If you do not actively fight when things are wrong, you become a part of it," he said. "It's a matter of identity, so I'm fighting. Win or lose, I have to do this." **Primary Status:** Likely Lubbers.

SD36: Republican: State Sen. Brent Waltz, Mike Beeles. **2008 Outlook:** Waltz will win an easy victory and his opponent will possibly face a grand jury indictment over stalking. **Primary Status:** SAFE WALTZ

SD42: Republican: Jeff Sponsel, Max Ellison, Jean Leising, John Heaton. Democrat: Warren Goodrich. **2008 Outlook:** Leising looks like the frontrunner here, but Sponsel has run a scrappy race, thanks in part of Cassandra Sponsel, his daughter who works for the Senate Majority staff. We think Leising wins the seat she once held before she ran for Congress. **Primary Status:** Leans Leising. ❖



Thomas Friedman, *New York Times*:

It is great to see that we finally have some national unity on energy policy. Unfortunately, the unifying idea is so ridiculous, so unworthy of the people aspiring to lead our nation, it takes your breath away. Hillary Clinton has decided to line up with John McCain in pushing to suspend the federal excise tax on gasoline, 18.4 cents a gallon, for this summer's travel season. This is not an energy policy. This is money laundering: we borrow money from China and ship it to Saudi Arabia and take a little cut for ourselves as it goes through our gas tanks. What a way to build our country. When the summer is over, we will have increased our debt to China, increased our transfer of wealth to Saudi Arabia and increased our contribution to global warming for our kids to inherit. No, no, no, we'll just get the money by taxing Big Oil, says Mrs. Clinton. Even if you could do that, what a terrible way to spend precious tax dollars — burning it up on the way to the beach rather than on innovation? The McCain-Clinton gas holiday proposal is a perfect example of what energy expert Peter Schwartz of Global Business Network describes as the true American energy policy today: "Maximize demand, minimize supply and buy the rest from the people who hate us the most." Good for Barack Obama for resisting this shameful pandering. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*:

Indiana has more women than men, more people without a college education than with a degree. And it's very white. Those demographics are fertile territory for Hillary Rodham Clinton. In state after state, she's won among women, whites and less-educated voters. But the state has more Protestants than Catholics and a substantial number of people who are not religiously affiliated. And its gender split is not that far off of 50-50. Men, Protestants and people who don't have a religion skew toward Barack Obama. Conversely, two of Obama's strong blocs — the 18-to-24 age group and blacks — do not make up huge portions of the Indiana population. Nine days out from the May 6 primary, the state is still considered a dead heat. But the characteristics of the state's population favor Clinton. In particular, the racial makeup of the state can't be overstated. In 24 of the 30 states that have held primaries so far, Clinton has won a majority of white votes. Obama has won 60 percent or more of the black votes in the 23 states where race was noted on the exit polls. Clinton has not won a majority of black votes in any state. So a state like Indiana, where 89 percent of the residents are white, certainly favors Clinton if Hoosier voting patterns follow other states'. In addition, an advantage Obama has because of Indiana's proximity to Illinois is less potent in the place it could do the most potential good. Folks in Lake County are understandably more familiar with Obama, having seen him on the Chicago TV

stations they receive. But Lake County has a black population that's three times the state average. If you assume that Obama would receive the bulk of black votes in Indiana as he did in other states, then the fact that Gary-area Democrats have had more media exposure to Obama than other Hoosiers is pretty much irrelevant. There's still time for some cataclysmic event to blast apart the conventional wisdom: Clinton takes Indiana, though not by a whopping margin. But unless that happens, I see no reason to anticipate an Obama victory. ❖



Jerry Davich, *Post-Tribune*:

Obama or Clinton? The junior senator or the senior politician? The first black commander in chief or the first female president? A man who promises change or a woman who has changed her promises? A polished orator who may be forced to eat his words by the Republican machine, or a scrappy, been there-done that former first lady? It can be a tough call. So tell me, are you still undecided who to vote for on May 6 for the Democratic presidential nomination? If so, you're not alone. I've met quite a few people at recent Obama and Clinton rallies who attended simply to get a better "feel" for each candidate. They're looking for either something in their voice, the sincerity in a handshake, or the simple fact of showing up in Northwest Indiana, I've been told. And I understand. I, too, am still on the fence, which may say more about me than the candidates. Maybe it's an easier decision for, say, women who've been fighting for gender equality for decades, or blacks who've been struggling for racial equality. Now that Indiana is justifiably considered a make-or-break state in this election, a debate here should help push undecided voters off this flip-flop fence. ❖

Matt Tully, *Indianapolis Star*:

The symbolism was impossible to miss. U.S. Rep. Andre Carson stood at a Northeastside grocery store Monday morning, hoping to drum up publicity eight days before the May 6 primary. Behind him, on a large billboard, was the face of Woody Myers who has dominated the 7th District's Democratic primary with his self-funded campaign. Carson is the sitting officeholder, the man with the title, the family name and the built-in advantages that come with incumbency. But Myers has been the more visible candidate, with a powerful TV advertising campaign and a well-run campaign office that has many wondering whether he'll put an end to the Carson dynasty when voters head to the polls next week. Carson is taking it all seriously. So there he was Monday, talking to the two reporters who had bothered to show up for his news conference (which, by the way, was woefully lacking in actual news). With Myers' image looming overhead, Carson talked about the federal tax rebate checks now being sent out in hopes of stimulating the U.S. economy.



Clinton administration OK'd Magnequench

WASHINGTON - In 1995, China National Non-Ferrous Metals, headquartered in Beijing, and San Huan New Material High-Tech Inc, funded by the Chinese government, joined with other interests to purchase the Anderson, Ind.-based Magnequench, which made Neo powder for use in magnets (ABC News). The two Chinese companies were headed by the husbands of the first and second daughters of then-Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. One of those daughters was at that time "vice minister of China's State Science and Technology Commission, whose responsibilities included acquiring military technologies by whatever means necessary," according to David Cay Johnston in "Free Lunch: How the Wealthiest Corporations Enrich Themselves at Government Expense (And Stick You With the Bill)." "Complaints about the sale of Magnequench were made to the U.S. government because of the military applications for the magnets," Johnston reports. "Still, the Clinton administration, an ardent proponent of globalization, approved the sale." The Clinton administration requested that the technology and production remain in the U.S. "If we believe this was truly a national defense issue, the company should not have been allowed to be sold in 1995, to the group it was sold to, which was backed by the Chinese government and Chinese entrepreneurs," says Virginia Shingleton, head of the economics department at Valparaiso University for the past 12 years. A memo prepared for Bayh by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service earlier this year stated that the Clinton admin-



istration could have objected to the sale under CFIUS, but it did not, and that the consortium promised to keep those Anderson, Ind., jobs in the U.S. only until 2005. An Oct. 6, 2005, press release from Bayh noted that he asked for the Government Accountability Office to study "concerns over foreign takeovers of American companies with national security implications & after an Indiana company called Magnequench closed thanks to a 1995 decision by CFIUS to approve a Chinese consortium's takeover. At the time, Magnequench made 85 percent of the magnets used to guide U.S. smart bombs." Said Bayh, in the release: "The committee responsible for providing this protection does not have a good track record, as I saw myself when it allowed an Indiana company that made smart bomb magnets to be purchased by a foreign business. When it comes to protecting our national security interests, we should be doing more, not less."

Obama files complaint on TV advertisement

INDIANAPOLIS - A 30-second ad running on Hoosier TV stations is evidence that a California-based group of Democrats backing Hillary Rodham Clinton is violating federal election laws, Barack Obama's campaign said Wednesday (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The top lawyer for the Obama campaign filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission asking for an investigation into the American Leadership Project. The group is spending \$700,000 on commercials in Indiana. The ads do not explicitly say to vote for Clinton, but they are critical of Obama. Robert Bauer, Obama's campaign lawyer, accused the American Leadership Project of violating campaign finance laws. He said the group organized as an independent organization that is free of limits on how much money each donor can give. But Bauer said the ALP operates

as a political action committee, which has donation limits. One union – the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers – has given the group \$1.2 million.

Caroline Kennedy appears in Boonville

BOONVILLE - Although she comes from a political family, Caroline Kennedy is not known for her politics (Evansville Courier & Press). "People are somewhat surprised sometimes to see me out here, and I'm sometimes surprised myself because I haven't been that involved in political campaigns," she said Wednesday to a group of more than 300 people at the Warrick 4-H Center in Boonville. "But I do believe this is the most important election since I was a child. I just turned 50, and I figured if I'm going to get out there, now is the time." Kennedy was in Boonville with Michelle Obama, the wife of presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D.Ill., who is locked in a tight race with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York in Tuesday's Indiana Democratic primary. Now an author, Kennedy is the only surviving child of former president John F. Kennedy and the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. She told the crowd it's been a gift for her to grow up in America, and she believes Obama will continue to bring this country together. "The values that I was given and raised with are the values that I want to pass on to my generation and the kind of America that I want to work as hard as I can to create, and there's one candidate who speaks to that kind of patriotism, the sense of hope and fairness, who's spent his life bringing us together, not tearing us apart, and that candidate is Barack Obama."