

# The Howey Political Report

The weekly briefing  
on Indiana politics

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## Quote Of The Week:

"You don't need a  
machine gun to hunt a rabbit..."

- Silver Lake resident Cliff  
Raing to 5th CD Democratic  
candidate J.D. Beatty, agreeing  
on the assault weapons ban.

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## Hamilton castigates Clinton abandonment, consultants, party apathy at IDEA convention

**FRENCH LICK** - In a watershed speech before an anemic turnout at the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association meeting last weekend, U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton chastised Democrats for abandoning President Bill Clinton and allowing the reliance on political consultants to destroy the party.

"What's going on here?" Hamilton asked at one point, prefacing several segments of his speech with an agonized, "Oh my..."

He quickly defined the 1994 mid-term elections as not being "all politics is local," but "all politics are presidential" and urged those present to embrace President Clinton and his successes in Congress.

The 114th annual IDEA meeting was marked by an uncustomary absence of top Democrats. State Chairwoman Ann DeLaney was a no-show, as was Gov. Evan Bayh. Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon, who received the "unequivocal" endorsement of its membership, attended Friday's golf tournament but missed the Saturday events. At the root was control of IDEA, where it meets and what role it serves for the party.

As one IDEA officer explained, "Ann DeLaney didn't want to run the whole show. She wanted to run the whole f---ing show."

At its annual business meeting Saturday morning at French Lick Springs Resort, the IDEA membership unanimously approved returning to this resort town for its 1995 convention. The members said DeLaney wanted to have the meeting in Merrillville this year and members complained that instead of its traditional role of small town newspaper editors, party faithful and candidates meeting for numerous seminars and talks in the resort's historic alcoves, party bigwigs wanted to turn it into a mall of political consultants who could shop their wares to candidates.

Enter Hamilton Saturday evening, just hours before he was to appear with U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar on NBC's "Meet the Press." Hamilton, after surveying the 100 or so people gathered in the ball-

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**Hamilton at French Lick, from page 1**

room, told HPR, "I'm not sure what I'm going to say."

Howard County Democratic Chairman D.J.

Bollinger said Hamilton spent the dinner quizzing those at his table about perceptions of President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton, as well as the state of the party and the IDEA.

Hamilton's extemporaneous speech was a mixture of laudatory comments about members of the state ticket who were present, a castigation of Democrats who have abandoned their president, and a stinging rebuke of political consultants taking over the party.

"Oh, my...let me tell you of one other trend," a pained Hamilton said well into his speech. "You know what I worry about a little bit? The role of the political consultant. I see it all over the place. I rarely find a political consultant who does not believe that he or she knows more than the candidate does. If the candidate wins, the political consultant believes he or she did it. And if the candidate loses, the consultant believes it was because the candidate ignored their advice. And let me tell you something. Political consultants are replacing political parties in this country. And I don't think that's a good trend. I don't know where that leaves me, but I think we ought to get rid of some of them."

Hamilton continued as he surveyed the light turnout.

"I think one of the big things in American politics is the decline of the political party. Now, let's be candid among ourselves this evening. John (Gregg) and I were talking a little while ago and we can remember the IDEA convention had 600 Democrats in this room. What's happened here? What's happened? We need to think about that. We really need to think about that. I don't have any doubt at all that it's one of the reasons why we have so much trouble in the Congress of the United States in getting a consensus behind the solutions because the political parties play such an important role in developing consensus in this country. We don't have that mechanism any more."

Hamilton recounted a litany of successes of President Clinton and the Democratic-controlled congress, citing lower deficits and inflation, a low unemployment rate, new investments, and attempts to reform welfare, campaign financing and lobbying - some of which he predicted would be passed before the October recess.

He portrayed Hoosier voter as pragmatic with an "anti-government and anti-elitist" feeling. "It's very, very strong. It's as powerful as I've ever seen in Indiana politics," Hamilton said. "Sometimes when I'm standing at a public meeting, I feel a curtain drop between me and the people I'm talking to. I'm a politician and therefore, they say, my word cannot be trusted.

"They understand one thing. They know Bill Clinton is a Democrat. And they know the Congress of the United States is controlled by Democrats. They understand that. They expect us to be accountable. They want us to act. And the pressure is on us. And that's what the '94

election is all about."

The 29-year congressional veteran reminded IDEA members that when Clinton's budget passed last year, Republicans predicted "inflation would soar. They said the unemployment rate would keep rising. They said the bill was a job-killer and it would put the economy in the gutter. They said that it was a one-way ticket to recession."

None of that, Hamilton said, came true.

Clinton, Hamilton said, pulled him aside at a meeting a few days before.

"The president said to me, 'Why aren't I getting more credit for this?'"

It came hours before ABC News's Jack Duffy said on *This Week with David Brinkley* that "if Ronald Reagan was the Teflon president, Bill Clinton is the Velcro president."

"One reason," Hamilton told the president, "is those of us who are Democrats aren't talking about it. I went to the state party in Indianapolis and there were a whole bunch of speakers. I was about No. 10. The first speaker got up and never mentioned a word about Bill Clinton and Al Gore. The second speaker got up and never mentioned a word about Bill Clinton and Al Gore...."

Hamilton said that after the third speaker, "I began keeping track. Nine speakers of a Democratic gathering - of the best Democrats across the state of Indiana - nine speakers in a row and not one of them said anything about Bill Clinton or Al Gore.

"And then I got up, and I was just mad. Just plain mad. And so I spoke up. 'All politics is local,' Tip O'Neil used to say, but I'll tell you something else. All politics is

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"I never give them hell," Hamilton quoted Harry S. Truman. "I give them the truth and they think it's hell...."

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presidential. Don't think, my friends, that Lee Hamilton or anyone on this state ticket, or anyone running for Congress can run away from the president of the United States. You can't do it and we ought not to try.

"I know the president's name is not on the ballot in 1994, but his standing in this country is the single most important fact about this 1994 election. All politics is local. All politics is presidential...."

"Oh my," Hamilton quietly said toward the end of his speech. "It's time to go."

He wondered why "Democrats are not enthusiastic about our party. Pam Carter is here; why is that, Pam? You can answer that when you get it up in a few minutes. When I go into a Democratic meeting, why don't I get a sense of enthusiasm about the party?"

Hamilton spoke of an array of Democratic legends, from Jefferson to Kennedy.

"I never give them hell," Hamilton quoted Harry S. Truman. "I just give them the truth and they think it's hell."

He finished by quoting Clinton: "There is nothing wrong that can't be cured by what is right in America."

## The Horse Race

US. SENATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Jontz (D) v. Lugar (R)	Safe R	Who put the smores in my box r shorts? Campfire campaign chats ease the pain of wobbly Jontz manager zoning out. Lugar does "Meet the Press" on NBC. Hey, no flagpole stuff, OK?
2ND CD Hogsett (D) v. McIntosh (R)	Toss Up	Hogsett blitz is on. Classic Joe - go positive early...wait for October to deliver the punch. Wilson said McIntosh ads to come mid-September. Hubbard's search for dirt on Hogsett is real risky....
4TH CD Long (D) v. Souder (R)	Leaning D	Long finishes town hall meetings where Uzi-lovers turn up the heat. By the way, has anyone seen Souder, lately? Chairman Steve Shine says GOP can carry the day.
5TH CD Beatty (D) v. Buyer (R)	Leaning R	This race is getting nasty. Beatty cries foul over Buyer release saying the Dem favors health care with government funded abortions. HPR senses Howard County Dems soft on the sheriff.
7th CD Harmless (D) v. Myers (R)	Leaning R	Quiet week on the western front. HPR predicts Harmless will have to hit the airwaves early to eat into Myers' lead.
8TH CD McCloskey (D) v. Hostettler (R)	Leaning D	McCloskey to HPR: "They say I'm vulnerable every year. But I'm still here." Charlie Cook sticking with McCloskey. Hostettler camp pointing to "earned media" - i.e. money still short.
9TH CD Hamilton (D) v. Leising (R)	Safe D	Rothenberg to Evansville Courier's Doug Sword on Leising: "I've heard people say she's a good candidate, a good challenger, but she ain't gonna beat Lee Hamilton."
<b>TRENDLINE: Comeback Kid Clinton not looking so bad this week after crime bill passes Senate. Republicans counting chickens could be in for rude surprise.</b>		

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## Quayle reportedly going for '96 bid

Former Vice President Dan Quayle's all but formal entry into the 1996 presidential campaign is winning the Joe Hogsett-David McIntosh congressional race as a proxy battle.

On Monday, the Associated Press reported that Quayle has "all but decided to seek the presidency." His strategy is to begin campaigning for congressional and gubernatorial candidates where he will test possible themes for the 1996 campaign.

Chris Wilson, campaign manager for Republican McIntosh in the 2nd CD, explained, "Quayle sees this race as an early matchup between himself and Bill Clinton."

"David McIntosh and Dan Quayle have the same kind of agenda and we believe Joe Hogsett will push the Clinton agenda," Wilson said of a proxy battle. "This will be an early race where voters will have a clear choice."

Quayle will appear at a Sept. 13 press conference with McIntosh in Muncie, host a rally at the Hotel Roberts and a fund-raiser. That will be one of his earliest forays on the campaign trail for congressional candidates. It will come four days after Quayle returns to the scene of his famous "Murphy Brown" speech at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco on Sept. 9.

The AP reported that Quayle plans to try out his conservative message in a keynote speech at the Christian Coalition annual conference in Norfolk, Va., next month.

Sources close to Quayle say that the family has been buoyed by the sale of more than 500,000 copies of his book, "Standing Firm."

## Columnists on Indiana

**Ben Smith**, *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* - Writing about Fort Wayne's Stop the Madness track program at North Side High School: "That's 45 kids who didn't wind up in the wrong place at the wrong time this summer, as 29 others have so far this year in the county." He continues, "And so we hear social programs spoken of as a vulgarity by some, and proven programs such as Midnight Basketball witlessly derided by the clueless. We hear cries for more prisons, conveniently ignoring the fact that if more prisons were the solutions, we wouldn't have to be asking for them to begin with."

**John Krull**, *Indianapolis News* - "Heaven help us, it has started already," Krull writes of Joe Hogsett's TV ad campaign. "Soon, Hogsett's Republican opponent - another eager young man named David McIntosh - also will elbow his way onto the airwaves. He and Hogsett will lob slick and superficial video bombs back and forth at each other until, between them, they have spent more than half a million dollars...Bad as that is, it's worse to think of the way most of that money will be spent. It won't be spent on shelters for the homeless. It won't be used on playground equipment for kids. It won't be donated to a worthy college or cause. No, it will be spent on TV commercials devoted to insults and innuendoes."

**Mark Kroeger**, *Evansville Courier* - "Boy, it's ironic, isn't it? On one hand, Evansville city officials are working like the devil to bring gambling to town, yet, at the same time, they're working just as diligently to keep it out. While Mayor Frank McDonald II's ad hoc riverboat evaluation committee was evaluating and analyzing proposals from big-time corporate gamblers, his police department was working undercover to rid neighborhood bars of illegal video gambling games." Kroeger writes of the case of Becky Garrett, whose now ex-husband, Daniel Richter, lost \$50,000 in a traffic accident settlement to one-armed bandits at the Crazy Eight Pool Hall. "Based on what her ex-husband says, he certainly would have taken that \$50,000 to an Evansville riverboat casino. The only difference is that instead of going to the bar's safe, the cash might have contributed to some legal gambling company's bottom line."

**Mary Dieter**, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - "Jim Jontz vented his frustration the other day over the continuing coverage of his campaign manager. 'I just think this is the most incredible press attention to personnel changes I've experienced in 18 years,' said Jontz, exasperation evident in his voice. 'Nobody covered me when I hired her. Hell, nobody covered me at all for months.' It was the classic lament of the underdog who needs as much positive press

as he can get. But Jontz has to take his share of the blame. He allowed it to drag on for a week by refusing to deal with Michele Tierney's daily indecision about whether she should stay with or leave the campaign and apparently by refusing to insist that, once and for all, she tell reporters the whole truth. And when your campaign manager admits that the possibility exists within your campaign of not telling 'the real reason,' for something, then it's time to realize that that person isn't doing you any favors."

**Steve Hammer**, *Navy* - "All of my ESPN junkie friends are upset that Major League Baseball players have gone on strike. I can't condemn them, because I used to be just like them. I used to watch every Cubs game on Channel 9. I used to worry about Sparky Anderson's personal problems. Not anymore, buddy. These days, I'm more likely to shout, 'To hell with baseball and its overpaid players. To hell with \$50 box seats and \$5 Cokes.' What used to be a he-man sport of the spitball and sharpened spike became instead a boring bloodless marathon of foul balls and four-hour games. No, baseball isn't nearly as great a sport as it was back in the days when Babe Ruth would drink a case of beer, smoke a box of cigars, eat a two-pound steak, sleep with two siphilitic hookers - and still smack three homers the next day."

**Dick Robinson**, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* - "Former Gov. Edgar Whitcomb promised no tax increases during his term and left his successor with some major tax problems. During Whitcomb's one term, property taxes went out of sight, but state taxes held their own. A similar situation exists today. Also, Whitcomb's failure to provide adequate revenue to cover services forced Gov. Otis Bowen to adopt a major state tax increase along with the property tax freeze. Gov. Evan Bayh, like Whitcomb, kept his promise, but his successor may not be able to make a similar pledge. History is a good teacher."

**Kevin Leininger**, *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* - "Having deep roots in a community is a funny thing: One day those roots seem to nourish you, giving life a wonderful warm sense of continuity and stability. The next day they seem like anchors tied around your ankles, then thrown overboard a sinking ship. I'm afraid that's how I feel about my hometown of Fort Wayne these days. Not the pride and even love I used to have for it. Not exactly disgust, either, at least not yet. Just a kind of weary ambivalence. I'll rely on others to apply a positive spin on Fort Wayne's 209th-place finish on *Money* magazine's annual list of the 300 best places to live. At least we made the list, they'll say. And we did finish ahead of Indianapolis, Gary, Evansville and South Bend. Well, hooray for us."

## Congress Watch

### Hamilton, Lugar talk Cuba, crime bill, health care on NBC

Last Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton appeared to comment on an array of issues along with Brian Ross, Robert Novak and Lisa Myers. Both were in Indiana at the time - Lugar commenting from WKJG-TV in Fort Wayne (ironically, that station doesn't carry the program), and Hamilton was at WTHR-TV in Indianapolis. Here are excerpts of their comments:

#### On the upcoming health care debate:

**Hamilton:** I think a few days ago, the debate in Congress was between those who wanted comprehensive reform and those who want incremental reform. But today, that's shifted. It's whether you get incremental reform or no reform at all. I think some health care reform should be passed in an incremental way. I hope that is what we do. It will be a close call.

**Myers:** Are you confident the president would sign that bill?

**Hamilton:** No, I'm not confident. I've had no such signal that he will. I think it's very much in his interest that he sign a reasonable, incremental approach, because, after all, it would be some improvement in health care for many Americans, even though it would be short of his goals.

**Myers:** How does the president get off the hook? How does he avoid significant political damage by backing off?

**Hamilton:** I think there's great appreciation from most Americans that the president has put health care on the agenda - that he's fought very hard for what he thought was the right thing to do. He recognizes, Congress recognizes and the people recognize that he's not going to achieve all of that. So, I think what he does is say, 'Look, I'm not satisfied with this bill that's presented to me. I think it's far short of goals I have for health care, but it's a modest step forward.' He should declare victory, move forward and go at it again in 1995.

**Novak:** Do you believe that passing an incremental bill would be tantamount for Republicans snatching defeat from the jaws of victory?

**Lugar:** I believe we should solve the portability question and pre-existing condition question as far as insurance reforms. Get some medical savings accounts, some reforms on liability suits, simplification of forms. These are things people want in a bipartisan way and I think the president would sign them. I think it would be to his credit if he did. I think the dilemma we face is that discussions we had on the Senate floor on the Clinton bill, the Gephardt bill, the Mitchell bill so frightened two-thirds

of the American people that they're afraid of any reform - even incremental reform right now.

**Myers:** We saw the president wave a pen much nicer than mine and say he would veto such legislation. If the president reneged on that promise, would that be in the same league as George Bush saying, 'Read my lips - no new taxes?'

**Lugar:** Yes, I think you can count on Republicans pointing out the president's pen-waving. That led to the general fear I just described. They understood what the president was about and they didn't like it.

#### On the crime bill:

**Ross:** On the procedural vote, you went the other way. Does this say anything about the times or this president?

**Hamilton:** I didn't say anything about either one so far as I'm concerned. I simply voted the way I did because I thought the bill could be improved. As it turned out, it was the right vote because as it turned out, the bill that eventually came before the House was a better bill.

#### On Cuba:

**Myers:** How well has President Clinton handled this so far?

**Hamilton:** I think the urgent need now is for the president of the United States to spell out fairly soon what the objectives of our policy in Cuba are. That is by no means clear to me. Now is the time for a presidential statement on Cuba. What I found in Indiana this week is people are very confused. They are looking for leadership.

**Myers:** So would you give the president low marks?

**Hamilton:** I think his move to put refugees in Guantanamo is an appropriate move, but it has to be seen as a very, very short-term move. What strikes me at this point about our policy is that it is very reactive.

## HPR Interview

Two weeks ago, the *HPR* asked Sen. Lugar about small amounts of weapons grade plutonium appearing in European airports:

**HPR:** Is this indicative of a security problem of former Soviet missiles reaching outlaw elements?

**Lugar:** To the best of our knowledge, there have been 30,000 tactical weapons identified, collected, transported and stockpiled in Russia where they are being systematically destroyed. There has been excellent accountability. Had all of this not occurred, the answer to questions raised this week would have been chaos. But as it stands, Russians have denied they have lost control.

**HPR:** So there have only been miniscule amounts discovered so far?

**Lugar:** Measured in grams.

Perhaps...we wander

A look at Indiana by Brian Howey

## Fascinating curves on the road to gun control

**SILVER LAKE** - You just never know what twist Indiana politics will take.

In this same space last week, I recounted how U.S. Rep. Jill Long was challenged by a number of National Rifle Association members and supporters at a town hall meeting in Fort Wayne. This was in a city suffering 29 homicides so far this year (a record pace), and 16 bank robberies (another record).

The city has had a lurid four years of gangsta-inspired drive-by shootings. Many families are contemplating a move from the city out of fear. You would think the last thing we'd need in Fort Wayne is more people armed with assault weapons.

And there was Long, the so-called "farm girl" from nearby Whitley County. A college professor. As civil and as nice a person as you'd ever want to meet; an earnest public servant. There she stood, telling the assault weapons supporters that she had, indeed, voted against such a ban in 1991. She held the 2nd Amendment as an inalienable right. That if it was, indeed, unconstitutional in this crime bill, that was something the U.S. Supreme Court could deal with.

Two nights later, I drove through downtown Fort Wayne, over Interstate 69, and out Indiana 14 into the lush, misty farmlands of western Allen County, through Whitley County and deep into northern Indiana's lakes region to catch Howard County Sheriff J.D. Beatty's "listening meeting" at the Silver Lake Town Hall in Kosciusko County. Beatty, of course, is a Democrat running against U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. He's been in law enforcement for 24 years. The hallmark of his six-page campaign brochure - titled "The J.D. Beatty Story" - are four pages recounting the April 14, 1987, incident in Kokomo when a suspect detonated four pipe bombs, killing himself and injuring 15 others, including the sheriff, critically.

The Silver Lake Town Hall is a tiny little building, at the edge of what looked to be a wetland, right across the parking lot from the B&K Root Beer stand. There were only a handful of folks there - maybe 10 at the most. This is hunting and fishing country. It's a place where people have guns. They grow up with guns. It most certainly has a significant NRA membership.

Of course, the NRA fears any infringement on 2nd Amendment rights. Take away assault weapons, goes the argument, and next year they'll be going after handguns and deer rifles.

Beatty has been critical of Buyer's vote against the crime bill. Yes, he told the Silver Lake folks, it had a little pork, but, as Long said, it had too much good stuff in it to vote down.

"What about the NRA?" Beatty was asked.

"I'm a member of the NRA," the sheriff began. "But I do support the assault weapons ban. I have five boys and I take 'em hunting. But they have no need for assault weapons. They don't need those guns for hunting."

And the Silver Lake folks chimed in. "You don't need a machine gun to shoot a rabbit," said Cliff Raing.

Another man spoke up. "You don't need no more than six shots. Duck hunters only get three shots. Any more than six and that is not a gun for hunting. Those are guns that kill people."

And yet another man entered the discourse. "Six shells is enough," he said. "I'm a hunter, but I don't care what the NRA says. We end up paying the bills for anyone who gets shot in South Bend."

Unlike Fort Wayne, the rural folks of Silver Lake seemed almost unanimous in their disdain for Uzis and other assault weapons. Of course, 10 folks don't speak for a whole town. I suspect I could have easily found someone down at the local bar who would have told me their rights were being infringed upon. Still, it was surprising that no one in this random meeting felt that way this night when a similar meeting in Fort Wayne was crowded with them.

These are interesting times, back home in Indiana. The *Herald-Times* in Bloomington reported last Saturday that passage of the crime bill, which bans guns with magazines that hold more than 10 bullets, prompted brisk assault weapons sales.

"Some people are shocked to learn they won't be able to buy a Browning like their grandpa had with a 13-round magazine," Ron Hendricks of Ron's Guns told the *H-T's* Laura Lane.

Warren Trinkle of Warren's Guns in Switz City made the point to Lane that a person with a gun holding 13 bullets is no more dangerous than a person with a 10-shot magazine and pockets full of clips. "They are buying them just to play with, to get the fun out of shooting them and for home protection," Trinkle said, adding that he was making sales to lots of "doctors and lawyers," as if that made it more acceptable.

U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey took similar heat in Mitchell last Saturday. *Sunday Herald-Times* reporter Steve Wyatt wrote that McCloskey insisted there had to be some regulation, or people would be buying artillery and Stinger rockets.

As for myself, I once lived in a little cabin where Trout Creek meets the St. Joseph River up in Elkhart County. It was isolated and I asked a friend, then Elkhart Police Chief Tom Cutler, what would be the best way to protect myself.

"Just get a pump-action shotgun," Cutler advised. "Any thief knows what that pump-action sound is and they'd leave."

Pump action shotgun...not as good in a 30-second sound bite as an AK-47 or a Stinger, eh?

## Humor Mill

*Nuvo's* "Best of Indy" promotion has a political question section. Here's how *HPR* answers the questions:

**Q. Best thing Hoosier government did with your money last year?** A. Hired rotund opera singer to set off dogs barking from Elkhart to Evansville.

**Q. The best career move for Evan Bayh?** A. Become Rexford Early's severest critic.

**Q. The best disappointment in public life by a public figure?** A. Ann DeVore not getting enough exercise by taking walks in the Statehouse.

**Q. The best thing the next mayor of Indianapolis should do?** A. Recommend a new publisher to replace Harrison Ullman at *Nuvo* after he begins important new high profile job.

**Q. The best thing Steve G Idsmith could do with the rest of his life?** A. Train puppies for RCA.

**Q. The best public figure for early retirement?** A. Dwayne Brown/Carey Griffith.

**Q. The best title for Dan Quayle's new book?** A. "Carmel Corn."

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**Wendellisms** - by Wendell Trogdon, *Indianapolis News*

Indiana could hire as many as 2,200 additional police officers - which means your favorite coffee stop may need to add space to accommodate all of them at breakfast.

Jim Jontz's campaign manager has quit. If he isn't getting anywhere, he doesn't need help getting there.

It may not get any better than this: The Colts are 4-0, Congress is in recess, the president is on vacation and Fidel Castro hasn't boarded a raft for Miami.

## Meanderings and Musings

Flotsam from the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association convention in French Lick last weekend:

Best line? House Majority Leader **John Gregg** introducing Senate candidate **Jim Jontz** - "If there ever was a man who wasn't afraid of a fight in the alley or a cat in the trash can, it's Jim Jontz...."

Attorney General **Pam Carter** on the disarray in the Democratic Party: "If we treat our own so badly, why do we need Republicans?"

**Jontz** borrowed a phrase from the crime bill and applied it to U.S. Sen. **Richard Lugar**: "Three terms and yer out...." **Jontz** added, "If **Birch Bayh** didn't deserve a fourth term in the U.S. Senate, certainly **Richard Lugar** doesn't either...."

Treasurer candidate **Katie Humphreys** noted that **John Gregg** would play her opponent in an upcoming debate practice. She later joined clerk of courts candidate **Allison Wharry** on stage with the **Stone Mountain Band** singing backup...until a fuse blew.

**Gregg** on auditor candidate **Elmo Gonzalez**: "Anyone who could be a loving father to 11 children has to be a great auditor...."

Secretary of state candidate **Tim Jeffers** said he was "running interference for **Frank O'Bannon** in 1996."

IDEA passed a resolution "unequivocally" endorsing **O'Bannon** for governor in 1996.

Former IDEA President **Maurice Mason** of the *Porter County Herald* attended his 49th consecutive convention.

**Wharry** said the four Statehouse candidates huddled together for several hours to plot fall strategy. Her comment? "We all like each other."

Indiana University Professor Emeritus **Robert H. Ferrell** debunked a **Truman** legend: Harry used a period behind the letter "S." in his name.

IDEA's 1995 officers: **Tom Gettinger** of the *Sullivan Daily Times* as president, **Joe Persinger** of the *Jackson County Banner* as vice president, and **Curt**

**Kovener** of the *Crothersville Times* as secretary-treasurer.

IDEA voted unanimously to have the spring meeting at the Brown County Inn next March and the fall meeting next August at French Lick Springs.

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Allen County Republicans are beginning a heavy radio ad campaign on behalf of county candidates. The slick ads feature a "morning in a America" theme and clever jingle....

Two late entries for Fort Wayne Community School board candidacies: current Public Safety Director **Payne Brown** and 1991 Democratic mayoral nominee **Charlie Belch**. *Journal-Gazette* headline proclaimed "heavyweights" enter race...an oblique reference to **Belch**?...

**Phil Oppenheim**, who challenged then-U.S. Rep. **Floyd Fithian** in 1978 in the old 2nd CD, died last week at age 69....

**Al Hubbard's** gone fishin'. And not on the muddy ol' *Wabash*, according to **Jon Schwantes** of the *Indianapolis News*, but in Secretary of State **Joe Hogsett's** phone records. Hubbard even acknowledges it's a political "fishing expedition" on behalf of **David McIntosh**. It might also be called - "wanting it so bad" that it backfires....

Speaking of veeps, **Dan Quayle** will be the main speaker at a "unity celebration" on behalf of conservative candidates sponsored by the **Family Taxpayer's Network** in Chicago on Sept. 15. The master of ceremonies will be former Chicago alderman **Ed Vrdolyak**....

Bureaucracy lovers, here's a good one to watch: the EPA has begun a "formal inquiry" into environmental injustice as related to the **Adams Center Landfill** between Fort Wayne and New Haven. But get this - there are no environmental justice regulations, no formula to implement orders, and EPA officials disagree on what the concept means. "But the EPA has decided to not to wait for the strategy to be completed before responding to request from New Haven... (Hall, *Journal-Gazette*). Hmmmmm.

**Read  
Brian Howey's  
weekly column  
in these Indiana  
newspapers**

Anderson Herald-Bulletin, Angola Herald-Republican, Auburn Evening Star, Bluffton News-Banner, Brazil Times, Columbia City Post & Mail, Connersville News-Examiner, Decatur Daily Democrat, Elkhart Truth, Frankfort Times, Fountain County Neighbor, Indianapolis News, Indianapolis Business Journal, Kendallville News Sun, Muncie Evening Press, Michigan City News-Dispatch, Newton County Enterprise, New Castle Courier-Times, Peru Daily Tribune, Wabash Plain Dealer

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