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The Howey Political Report

The weekly briefing
on Indiana politics

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Phillips Interview: It's us v. Indy

Ho-hum...

Indiana Legislative races leave a lot to imagine

BEDFORD - Several weeks ago, Indiana University economist Morton Marcus railed at legislative candidates for hiding behind their parties' "shabby" platforms when they should be addressing crucial issues.

Issues like what he called in his "Eye on the Pie" column Indiana's education deficit, which has the state running behind the national average in college-educated workers. Specifically, the U.S. average is 51.9 percent of the civilian workforce with some college education. In Indiana, the figure is 43.8 percent. To attain the national average, Indiana would have to get 104,600 adult Hoosiers into higher education programs to be competitive today.

Yet this comes at a time when the Legislature has been cutting back on university funding, sending new Indiana University President Myles Brand to meet leaders and warning that cutbacks would be catastrophic to Indiana's workforce readiness.

The HPR looked into a number of legislative races to see if they were being issue-driven. There are legislative campaigns where the "education deficit" is being addressed, and there are more where the state political apparatus, using "killer phone bank" techniques and poll-defined "hot button" issues such as welfare reform and early release for prisoners who get their GEDs, are the dominant element.

Other than some door-to-door, yard signs, and bumper stickers, most of the campaigns for the Indiana General Assembly seem as robust as a Richard Roudebush photo hanging near the pop machine at some Republican headquarters on the prairie.

There are a few notable exceptions. As detailed in this edition as well as last week's *HPR*, the 74th House District race between Speaker Michael K. Phillips and Republican Sally Rideout Lambert is largely driven by local issues. Republican Zeal Fisher is challenging State Rep. B. Patrick Bauer over his job with South Bend schools.

In Lawrence County's 85th District centered around Bedford, State Rep. Linda Henderson is campaigning on her efforts for a study committee to bring Purdue and Vincennes university engineering

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Quote Of The Week:

"The line between Republican gains and a Republican landslide is actually quite thin because so many contests are close. What happens in the next month will matter a lot..." - E.J. Dionne Jr.

Washington Post

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courses to six south western Indiana counties. "In fact," Henderson explained, "the Commission on Higher Education is submitting our recommendations in October, and if accepted, will go to the Legislature." To Henderson, the critical need is to get people working at General Electric in Bloomington and Carpenter in Mitchell to enhance their skills with engineering courses. Such courses are currently available at Rose-Hulman in Terre Haute and the University of Evansville, but are too expensive for most workers. She saw an editorial on the subject in 1983. When she joined the Legislature last year, she approached the editor, Bill Schrader, about the idea and the two are now working together on the project.

"My campaign has concentrated on this critical job development and workforce development issue so that we can make our area attractive to employers," Henderson said. "There is a major gap here."

Henderson won a seat she wasn't supposed to in 1992, defeating Republican Ralph Anderson by a mere 87 votes. She was targeted by the Republican House Campaign Committee and is facing a stiff challenge from Brent Steele, a local attorney.

The 65th race was prominently featured three weeks ago when Phillips complained about the "killer phone banks" which had Republican callers suggesting that Henderson and four other targeted Democrats were soft on crime. "They suggested that I support putting child molesters on the street," Henderson said. "I co-authored the Zachary Snider bill. Children's issues are issues I am personally interested in."

The killer phone banks continue, prompting Henderson to explain, "I may in the end have to say some unpleasant things about Mr. Steele. If push comes to shove, I may have to."

Steele has conducted a door-to-door campaign since late February and the previously defined hot-button issues appear to prevail. "People I've talked to are concerned about welfare. They feel the system is being abused," Steele said. "It's a rural district. The farmers feel extremely strapped by the property taxes. One of the things they are particularly concerned about is this fair market valuation of their real estate for tax purposes. The farmers perceive it as a boondoggle."

The only exchange between Henderson and Steele came via news releases over the killer phone banks. "It was a press release type situation," Steele said.

While some targeted races bring out both state and local issues generated by the candidates, in other districts the candidates seem to be almost pulled along by their respective state committees.

Take the 52nd House District in LaGrange and Noble counties. State Rep. Dale Sturtz of LaGrange won by 174 votes two years ago when the seat was vacated by popular Republican Brad Fox. The GOP immediately put that district in their sights.

What's occurred there is a race that is almost totally being run out of Indianapolis by both parties.

Any major issues? "Not really," Sturtz, a former LaGrange sheriff, said. "We haven't had a major tax increase in five years. It's one of two states in the nation that hasn't had to do that. The economy is as good as I've seen it in a long time. Running for sheriff was easy. You talk about crime and everyone was against it."

Republican **Joy LeCount** said that when she initially entered the race, it was as a Noble County commissioner who had to deal with unfunded state and federal mandates. "That was the underlying reason I decided to run," she said.

"In looking at the voting record over the last two years in a community where we are experiencing a lot of industrial growth and business development, we need a person who is in favor of things business people need to happen from a government level."

She quickly pointed to an issue that the Republican State Committee has stressed to other candidates in targeted races. "He voted in favor of allowing convicted felons to get out of jail early if they got their GED," LeCount said. "He also voted to allow a person convicted in office to continue in office."

That was another issue pushed by the state committee. And LeCount brought up a third hot-button issue

Other than some door-to-door, yard signs, and bumper stickers, the campaigns for the Indiana General Assembly seem as robust as a Richard Floudebush photo hanging near the pop machine at some Republican headquarters on the prairie...

stressed by the state committee: "I also feel we definitely do need welfare reform here in Indiana. Some of the things government promotes continues some of the societal ills."

In one of the targeted Senate races in the state - the 15th - virtually no issues have surfaced. State Sen. Tom Wyss has had a heavy radio ad rotation stressing his record of "fighting" crime and his securing tougher anti-drunk driving laws. His agenda is to continue to "fight."

His **opponent, Fort Wayne City Councilwoman Janet Bradbury**, has worked almost entirely behind the scenes. There are no debates scheduled. The Democrat is not running media. There has been virtually no coverage in the newspapers or on TV. The Democrats had hinted that the Bradbury campaign might rely on hot local issues such as "unigov" for Allen County and the Adams Center Landfill, but such a debate has yet to occur.

It is a vastly different race from the one Democrat Geoff Padcock ran against State Sen. John Sinks two years ago - one that featured heavy TV and radio ads from both sides, and weekly press conferences.

It might be reasonable to assume that when the dust settles on Nov. 9, the more decisive thinkers like Marcus will be unimpressed at the content and nature of most of these campaigns.

The Horse Race

2ND CD	STATUS	COMMENTS
Hogsett (D) v. McIntosh (R)	Toss Up	Rothenberg Political Report notes "McIntosh finally has campaign in gear." Lists race in "pure toss-up." Dualing photo-ops with cops on the crime thing.
4TH CD Long (D) v. Souder (R)	Toss Up	WPTA-TV poll (random calls, 4.2 error) has Long with a 48-41 percent lead. Souder camp notes question did not include party affiliation. Long on TV. Rothenberg calls this "likely" Democrat.
5TH CD Beatty (D) v. Buyer (R)	Leaning R	The debate has been cast. First will be at WLFI in Lafayette at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 1 in a Lincoln-Douglas format. Second is Nov. 2 forum at Peru HS. Late debates fueled Buyer over Jontz in '92.
7TH CD Harmless (D) v. Myers (R)	Safe R	Greencastle critics tailing Harmless on IBM flotsam. GOP saying race is over. Rothenberg has it "leaning" R. Harmless in '95? '96? <i>Chairman</i> Myers on House Appropriations?
8TH CD McCluskey (D) v. Hostettler (R)	Toss Up	Southern Indiana wags and scribes tell <i>HPR</i> that Frank "has 'em right where he wants 'em." Says another, "Classic Frank." Rothenberg says "likely" Dem but "potentially late-breaking sleeper."
41st INDIANA SENATE Walters (D) v. Garrison (R)	Leaning R	Sharp, attractive Dem's Indy market TV ads create stir. What's wrong with this picture? ISTA not lined up like in '86. Good GOP year brewing. Sounds like a Dem diversion from other races.
74TH INDIANA HOUSE Phillips (D) v. Lambert (R)	Leaning D	MKP lashes back: ask her who she'd vote for for speaker? Creates a book-ends v. Indy argument for re-election. Could Mayor Pastric be coming with reinforcements from The Region?

TRENDLINE: Horse Race getting lots of flak from Democrats about the toss-ups. Light turnout expected in Port-au-Prince. President Clinton-Carter headed to North Korea....

Souder-Long debate probes Clinton impact

FORT WAYNE - It was one of those startling moments that really explains just how weird this year has become politically.

There was 4th CD Republican challenger Mark Souder turning to U.S. Rep. Jill Long last Sunday during a debate at Indiana-Purdue, Fort Wayne, and complimenting her on a record of fiscal conservatism. He acknowledged Jill Long had never voted for a tax increase.

In past years, the absolute litmus test for Republicans was the "no new taxes" pledge. And here was Long, a "New Democrat," being complimented by a Republican for doing just that. "I want to thank her as a citizen," Souder said.

"I can't think of any other candidate doing that," said Chris Sautter, Long's media consultant. "I had to conclude that he didn't want to come across as too strident or too negative. Obviously, the downside is you underscore your opponent's strength."

But Souder spent much more time underscoring the major weakness of Long and other Democrats across the nation that is almost beyond their control - President Bill Clinton.

While Long tried to distance herself from the president, she ended up on the post-Espy cabinet lists. "It's an honor to be considered," Sautter said. "I don't think she expects to be asked. This kind of thing inadvertently helps her. It raises her stature that she's good enough to be considered for a cabinet post." Even though Long's inclusion on the Espy successor list didn't seem to be anything more than a warmed up list of contenders from 1992, Souder's campaign leaped at the opportunity.

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HPR Interview

Speaker Phillips says his race pits Indy v. north-south

BOONVILLE - House Speaker Michael K. Phillips is getting a stiffer test than usual this election year.

The three-term speaker was unopposed during the last two elections, but this year local issues have bolstered the upstart campaign of Republican Sally Rideout Lambert, the daughter of a former Warrick County prosecutor and a former Indiana Senate intern.

The race seems to be driven on local issues - bad highways to Evansville, a clean coal grant for Alcoa that got hung up in conference committee last spring, and gambling.

While Phillips began running radio ads on Sept. 20, he was quick to play down talk that he might be endangered despite a poll Lambert said put her two percentage points up.

Here is how Phillips responds:

HPR: Your opponent and the state Republicans have revealed a poll that shows you to be 2 points behind, 40 percent undecided and huge negatives for you. How do you respond to this poll?

Phillips: I'm not surprised. My opponent and the state Republicans would like to regain control of the House leadership in Indianapolis. I don't put any credibility in that poll.

HPR: I talked with your opponent and she believes a number of local issues are driving her campaign, such as the highways to Evansville. She says with a speaker and a governor of the same party, that should have been put on the fast track.

Phillips: Well, people have been working on that highway for 20 years, including Gov. Orr, who was from Evansville. And I'm certainly supportive and working on the highway, as is Congressman McCloskey. One of the major considerations is getting funding to extend I-69...to this area and further south. And Congress, as I understand it, is working on funding for that proposal and as soon as that is forthcoming, I think the state will make its commitment to match whatever required funds are for that program. This, of course, depends on the highway commissioner and you need to talk to Fred P'Pool.

HPR: You went on the air (Sept. 20) with radio ads. Why did you feel the need to go that early?

Phillips: That was programmed as part of my campaign plan for several weeks. That's the way I'm running the campaign.

HPR: Have you done any polling?

Phillips: No.

HPR: Do you plan to do any polling?

Phillips: I possibly will poll, but I have not done any at this point. Last time I had an opponent I polled. I

would expect that to happen.

HPR: Your opponent describes you as arrogant and out of touch with your district. How do you respond to those characterizations?

Phillips: All I can do is point to the opportunities that I've had to represent the voters of this district for some period of time. I'm hopeful they will recognize the accomplishments for southern Indiana and hope they recognize as speaker of the House I will continue to help bring back grants and programs to my district. I have confidence the voters of my district will want to return me. I don't think that's arrogant. I think that's just communication with the voters who recognize that I'm in a position to help my district.

HPR: Your opponent has said that you have been unable to bring home the pork and the bacon to your district. What happened to the clean coal technology bill for Alcoa?

Phillips: That was initiated late in the last session and it's one of my top priorities for the next session. The coal technology program for Indiana is extremely important for my district and southern Indiana because that's where the coal is mined in this state. We have the cooperative support of the coal industry and Alcoa, which is a major employer in this area. We've entered into an agreement to establish clean coal technology in the Alcoa facility that will burn at least a half million tons of mined coal a year on the condition that we can arrange the financing for that. As I say, that will be a top priority for the upcoming session.

HPR: What happened to that legislation in the last session?

Phillips: It was in conference committee. The Senate just didn't act on the conference committee reports at the end of the session along with a number of other issues...the property tax replacement, the reform program. There were several issues tied up in negotiations and there was a conference committee report that was agreed to. But it was late and the Senate refused to vote on it.

HPR: Some people around the state are talking about your race much the same way they did about Speaker J. Roberts Dailey in 1986. Do you draw any distinctions between the two scenarios?

Phillips: The people who are really starting this effort to make this an accelerated race are all from Indianapolis. Obviously, as speaker of the House, there are people who recognize the importance of that office and Indianapolis for years controlled the General Assembly. I know the special interests in Indianapolis would like to control it again. So I'm not at all surprised that the Republicans in Indianapolis would want to defeat me so they could regain the office of speaker.

HPR: But your opponent paints the exact opposite picture. She says you are controlled by special interests, that most of your money is coming out of Indianapolis

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Legislature Watch

Garton says he's not endangered species

COLUMBUS - When Democrat Jessica Webb took her campaign against Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton to the expensive Indy media market last week, she got more attention than the first Joe Hogsett ad.

"It's amazing what you can do when you buy news," said Garton, who insists he is not in trouble, but is running "A Guy You Can Trust" TV ads regardless. "The benefit is that every dollar that we have to spend here won't go into another district," Garton said. "We have three of four other districts where we can pick up seats."

Democratic Chairwoman Ann DeLaney wouldn't reveal any polling data that might reinforce any perceptions that Garton is an endangered species. But Mary Dieter of the Louisville Courier-Journal said on *Indiana Week in Review* last week, "Jessica Webb is Bob Garton's worst nightmare."

In 1986, Garton was a target of the ISTA, but won easily. This year, he says, "That's not money she's raised. It's coming from the State Central Committee."

Webb has vowed to knock on 8,000 doors.

What it means is while the Republicans are gunning for House Speaker Michael K. Phillips, the Democrats are looking for blood in the Senate.

Phillips, continued from page 4

Phillips: Ask my opponent who she would vote for for speaker if she were elected. I'm sure it's Paul Mannweiler. He's the power broker, the Republican from Indianapolis. He's got Mike Young, another Republican power broker, running the campaign. You probably ought to ask her who she would vote for for speaker if she were elected.

HPR: The New Orleans trip may have become the blood in the water, so to speak, for Republicans...

Phillips: Well, that's no longer an issue and I made a statement on that.

HPR: Care to make a prediction on where you will be election night? Do you think you will win comfortably?

Phillips: Well I have every reason to believe I'll win comfortably. I have no reason to believe otherwise. I think my record has been very supportive since I've been in the General Assembly and more recently as speaker of the House been successful in getting millions of dollars

and programs back into southern Indiana. The opportunities for economic development for this end of the state and, frankly, the northern end of the state, have been much greater because the power of the legislature has been removed from the Republican leadership in Indianapolis and is now being shared - the opportunities are being shared on a statewide basis. It's something that the voters appreciate and will continue to support in my area. I don't think the voters want the power returned to the Republican interests in Indianapolis. Now there are plenty of opportunities made by legislators outside of Indianapolis, including Mike Phillips.

HPR: I asked your opponent how she can make a case of replacing the speaker of the House with a 26-year-old freshman. How do you respond to that?

Phillips: I've worked a lot of years to achieve the seniority I now have. Obviously if my opponent were successful in winning, she (Something missing here) would have years to work to achieve the same position, if it could be achieved.

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Musings and Meanderings

Funny how we have four Statehouse, three congressional races and dozen or so legislative races all hotly contested this fall...and yet the speculation continues on the 1996 governor's race. The *Indianapolis News* reported that Mayor **Steve Goldsmith** and **J. Patrick Rooney** met last week and the mayor asked his friend to step aside. The answer: "I'm in this race to stay." Key Goldsmith aides are divided on whether the first-term mayor will run. Chief of Staff **Anne Shane** is said to favor a re-election for mayor. **Mike Welle** wants Goldsmith to run for governor. The problem? No likely Goldsmith lieutenant has emerged who could be reasonably assured of victory to carry on the reforms. "There's no one they can turn to," U.S. Sen. **Richard Lugar** told *HPR*.

More reaction on Goldsmith for governor: "He's ambition in a suit," said Democratic Chairwoman **Ann DeLaney**. "He's clearly going to do both." (*Indiana Week in Review*).

HPR prediction: hizzoner's gonna just do it
Democratic secretary of state candidate **Tim**

Jeffers used a prop of a boarded up office to call for abolishing the state's third-ranking position. "We can't afford to be spending \$2 million a year on a political stepping stone," Jeffers said. Responded his opponent, **Sue Ann Gilroy**, "We can't afford to bury an elective office in a bureaucracy."

Watch for an avalanche of "Lugar Team" ads the senator is doing with the four Statehouse candidates, both individually and as a group. Lugar says his campaign's polling shows all four Republicans ahead.

Joe Hogsett went a week without TV ads running. **David McIntosh's** team speculates Hogsett expected the Republican to go into attack mode. "But our new ad was a puff piece," said **Chris Wilson**. That might have caused Hogsett to revamp.

Here's a surprise: U.S. Rep. **Phil Sharp** has endorsed Secretary of State **Joe Hogsett** in the 2nd CD.

John Schwantes has been named city editor of the *Indianapolis News*, replacing **Craig Hitchcock**.

Dr. **John Brademas**, who represented the 3rd CD for more than 20 years, has been appointed chairman of President Clinton's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. First Lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** is the honorary chairwoman.

Robert Schmuhi, chair and professor at the University of Notre Dame's American Studies program, investigates the shifting relationship between politicians and the media in his new book, "*Demanding Democracy*" (University of Notre Dame Press, 144 pages, \$22.95). The Michigan City native writes that the 1992 presidential campaign brought unprecedented changes to the way Americans elect leaders. It was a combination of an angry electorate, radio talk shows and electronic town hall meetings that reduced the distance between politicians and the public to create a new political landscape.

U.S. Rep. **Pete Visclosky** has made an offer to any Lake or Porter County police officer: if you need a bulletproof vest, call me. Visclosky put \$220,000 in a defense appropriations bill passed by the House last week making the equipment available.

The home of the 28th vice president of the United States, **Thomas Marshall**, was moved to North Manchester's Halderman Park, where it will be turned into a museum.

U.S. News & World Report in its "Washington Whispers" mentions that Republican mayors in several cities, including New York, Los Angeles and Fort Wayne, may be in line for grants from the Justice Department for community policing and crime prevention. Fort Wayne Mayor **Paul Helmke** has come under fire from Republicans for backing several Clinton administration initiatives, such as the economic stimulus package and the crime bill.

WFTA-TV Poll gives U.S. Sen. **Richard Lugar** a 52-16 percent lead over Democrat **Jim Dantz** (random residents, +/- 4.2 percent).

South Bend Tribune's **Jack Colwell** reports that Republican **Zeal Fisher** attacked State Rep. **B. Patrick Bauer** for having a do-nothing job as assistant to South Bend Community School Supt. **Virginia Calvin**. Anything improper? Calvin was asked. She responded, "B. Patrick is too smart to be caught at that. His superintendent also will not get caught in that."

Republicans legislative candidates in Indy did a reprise of the act their national counterparts did in Washington, pledging to immediately get tough on welfare, crime and property taxes. To which Bauer responded, why didn't they do that when they were in power?

Humor Mill

Wendellisms, **Wendell Trogdon**, *Indianapolis News*

Voters have mixed feelings about Frank O'Bannon running for governor. It's sort of like asking a favorite uncle to wallow in the hog lot.

Rex Early also wants to be governor. It's the only forum that will allow him to speak without being interrupted by Ann DeLaney.

The Devil's Dictionary, **Ambrose Bierce**

Conservative, *n.* A statesman who is enamored of existing evils, as distinguished from the liberal, who wishes to replace them with others.

Representative, *n.* In national politics, a member of the Lower House in this world, without discernable hope of promotion in the next.

Perhaps... We Wander

By Brian Howey

Death knell of New Deal liberalism may take conservative Dems down

FORT WAYNE - In the aftermath of the 1980 Reagan landslide, Hoosier journalists such as I often were the object of pity from liberals across the nation.

"From Indiana, eh?" they would say.

Looks of disgust would cross faces. Then it would rise to indignation. "How could you people have retired Birch Bayh and John Brademas?"

Nov. 4, 1980, saw perhaps the biggest liberal pillar of American politics yanked out by an electorate seeking change. Bayh, Brademas, George McGovern, Gaylord Nelson - unabashed liberals all - lost that night. About the only survivor in the Senate was Idaho's Frank Church.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar recalled the Reagan landslide.

"It just rose up during that last week," Lugar said. "There were about 10 races that year that were decided by just one or two points. They all ended up going Republican. When they all came up for re-election six years later, most of them lost by just a percent or two."

The decline of American liberalism, which had dominated the social agenda from 1932 through 1968, began that crisp November 14 years ago. The death knell for liberalism as we know it may finally be felt in five weeks.

It's been a slow process.

There was a resurgence of liberalism as the Moral Majority faded. Gov. Mario Cuomo's dynamic 1984 speech to the Democratic National Convention seemed to revive the ghosts of FDR, JFK and LBJ. While the pundits loved it, Ronald Reagan emphatically beat that rhetoric down several months later. Despite Walter Mondale's historic 49-state defeat, Cuomo could have had the 1988 presidential nomination had he wanted it.

Americans sought out centrist presidents in the post-Reagan era. George Bush cast a thin shadow. Bill Clinton two years ago was packaged as a "New Democrat" - fiscally conservative and socially progressive - and it won him the presidency. Clinton had nurtured this breed through his Democratic Leadership Council, although it began to emerge in Indiana before he became a national figure.

Evan Bayh served as his father's campaign manager in 1980 and must have been deeply impressed as the

senator carried Vanderburgh County by a mere 5,500 votes, Vigo by 3,000, Lake by only 8,000 and St. Joseph by fewer than 4,000. The unabashed liberal Birch Bayh carried only 23 counties. Four years later, stumping for Wayne Townsend, Evan Bayh unveiled the New Democrat image, and it carried him into elective office in 1986. Other young, fresh faces - Jill Long, Tim Roemer, Joe Hogsett - followed with impressive victories. In five weeks, Long and Hogsett face stern tests despite their fiscal conservatism and adroit independence from a president Roemer described as straying off the course.

If Bayh, Long, Roemer or Hogsett had declared themselves Republicans, they would have had the performance credentials to do so. They would have found a welcome mat in front of Republican headquarters. This crystallized last Sunday when 4th CD Republican challenger Mark Souder "complimented" Long on her unblemished record for voting against tax increases, which not too long ago was a key litmus test for Republicans.

At this writing, Ted Kennedy, Mario Cuomo, Diane Feinstein and Tom Foley - liberals all - are clawing for political survival, either dramatically trailing in the polls or

"Campaign manager Evan Bayh must have been deeply impressed as the senator carried Vanderburgh by a mere 5,500 votes, Vigo by 3,000, Lake by only 8,000..."

in dead heats. They represent the final pillar of the American liberal dynamic that many of us grew up with.

What is fascinating about this is that Clinton's straying back into a mode of New Deal liberalism, in which he and First Lady Hillary Clinton patterned health care reform on a 60-year-old model, has brought about the prospect of dragging other "New Democrats" who lived up to that title into the electoral dustbin. On the eve of this destruction of classic 20th Century liberalism, we find young adults who don't believe they'll ever see a cent of Social Security when they retire.

Last winter, when Clinton was popular, no one really believed that Jill Long would face a tough test this fall. Last June, when Hogsett carried a huge warchest advantage in the 2nd CD, many observers felt that money and his own unique blend of conservatism would carry the day.

Today, both are going to have to run close to flawless campaigns in order to win in an atmosphere that conjures up a phrase from the ol' Gipper himself.

"You ain't seen nuthin' yet..."

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Newton County Enterprise, Peru Daily Tribune, Shelbyville News, Wabash Plain Dealer

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Debates, continued from page 3

"To be considered for the Clinton cabinet along with Donna Shalala and Jocelyn Elders? I wouldn't be bragging about that," said Mark Wickersham, Souder's campaign manager.

"At the debate, Jill Long said she wanted to be a part of the Clinton team," Souder said Tuesday. "So I don't find it surprising that she's being considered for Clinton's cabinet. Bill Clinton wants a loyal friend like Jill Long in his cabinet."

At the same time Long was appearing on the cabinet list, her first TV ad featured this text: *"She's brought a breath of fresh Hoosier air to Washington. Standing up for us, even when it means crossing her own party. She opposed the Clinton budget because it didn't cut enough spending while raising taxes..."*

During Sunday's debate, Long and Souder played a chess game around the figure of Bill Clinton.

It will be a scene repeated a number of times in Indiana over the next month as debates heat up the political landscape. In the 2nd CD, David McIntosh will try to link Joe Hogsett to the White House. In the 8th CD this Sunday at WFIU-TV in Bloomington, John Hostettler will try the same tactic against U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer will do the same thing at WLFI-TV in Lafayette on Nov. 1 against Democrat J.D. Beatty.

Souder ran the prototype debate mode on Sunday, with Long practicing what will often be a defense of proclaimed "independence."

"I believe that one of the most important things that you can do as a representative is listen to the people who elect you and take that voice back to Washington," Long explained to nearly 250 people and a regional TV audience at IPFW's Neff Hall.

"I've often been asked a question, 'What do you do or what will you do if your party leadership wants you to

vote one way and the people back home want you to vote another?'" Long continued. "My response has always been, if there's a choice to be made over what I believe is right for our district and what my party leadership wants me to do, for me there is no choice. That's why I am able to stand up to the president of the United States when he places a call and say, 'I'm sorry Mr. President, but I can't support your budget; I can't support a piece of legislation you want me to.'"

While an array of issues - entitlements, crime, Haiti - surfaced, the energy of this debate seemed to be centered on Bill Clinton. Health care was one example.

"I also am a co-sponsor of the Clinton health care plan, as I'm sure you have heard," Long said after Souder had mentioned that fact earlier. "You can't help your basketball team win the game unless you're on the team and I thought it was very important to be a player and have a place at the table in health care reform debate.."

Souder responded by saying, "I was really pleased to hear the incumbent admit she was a player on the Clinton team."

Long shot back, "My opponent would very much like to run in this campaign against Bill Clinton. But this is a race between Mark Souder and Jill Long. And I think most of you here today know that I have had the most independent voting record in Indiana."

It is uncertain that both political parties will be looking at polling data in the 4th CD soon.

There were several elements to the debate that may have limited or exaggerated its impact. First of all, it was broadcast by WPTA-TV at the same time the Chicago Bears were in the process of upsetting the Buffalo Bills in an NFL telecast.

A second element was how the candidates were identified on screen. It was: "Jill Long (D), incumbent" and "Mark Souder (R), challenger" - a subtlety that can strike fear or joy into the brainpan of a consultant.

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