

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

The Howey Political Report is published 40 times a year by NewsLink, Inc. The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana. It neither endorses candidates nor advocates positions of public policy.

Brian A. Howey
editor and publisher

Howey Political Report Office: 317-685-0883
PO Box 44168 Fax: 317-692-1032
Indianapolis, IN 46244 CompuServe: 75141,51

For Subscription information call: 317-685-0883

© 1995, The Howey Political Report

Racial polarization new 10th CD twist?

Deep safety net cuts, Simpson verdict reaction pose interesting post-Jacobs era questions

INDIANAPOLIS - By 11:45 a.m. Oct. 3, the lunch crowd in Filibusters, a pub across the street from the Indiana Statehouse, swelled to historic proportions.

The mostly white crowd - many state bureaucrats, as well as a former columnist and a state ticket candidate - packed the place to watch the O.J. Simpson verdict, while several black restaurant workers filled their orders.

There was a fear that should the verdict have been guilty, a cheer would have burst forth, which could have been perceived as a slap in the face of the blacks present. When the not guilty verdict was read, the crowd quietly melted away.

A week later, at the Skyline Club a few blocks to the north, U.S. Sen. Dan Coats met with several writers. He expressed his amazement that the overthrow of the welfare state by the Republican Congress has been met with so little outcry from its constituency.

The backdrop to these two scenes is Indiana's 10th Congressional District, which radiates five miles out from Monument Circle in each direction. It is Indiana's most racially diverse district at 69 percent white, 30 percent black. Its voting percentage is 27 percent black. If U.S. Rep. Andy Jacobs decides to retire next month, as many Democratic observers are predicting, it could be the scene of the most intense 1996 congressional campaigns in Indiana.

Former State Sen. Virginia Blankenbaker announced her GOP candidacy this week, telling district supporters, "I've lived it. I've also lived the problems of the district." She is expected to face 1994 nominee Marvin Scott, a black Butler University professor who polled 50,988 votes (46.5 percent) in his race against Jacobs.

On the Democratic side, if Jacobs steps down, the primary

continued on page 2

"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"O.J. Simpson has broken new ground in celebrity - becoming a zillion times better known than he ever was. A gorgeous monster...."

-Maureen Dowd, New York Times

INSIDE FEATURES

- **Horse Race: Anderson, Evansville races** page 2
- **Play of the Week: A boost for Witwer** page 3
- **"Two-race" issue bugs Goldsmith** page 4
- **Columnists Howey, Rohn, Buckler** page 5
- **HPR Interview: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder** pages 6-7

HUMOR

M I L L

How's IU's football season going? Well, the Hoosiers are tied with Penn State in the Enormous Eleven.

Bloomington Herald-Times columnist *Rose McIlveen* recalls the 1904 election in Monroe County as memorable. One reason was that the votes of Salt Creek Township didn't count. Why? "In making up the county vote, above each column of figures, the clerks did not write the names of the candidates to whom the figures were credited. There was now no one to count for them...So Salt Creek has as well not voted for the county ticket." *The Bloomington Telephone's* Nov. 15, 1904 edition explained, "What ordinarily would have almost caused a revolution passed by as a joke."

Devil's Dictionary

By *Ambrose Bierce*

Back, n. That part of your friend which it is your privilege to contemplate in your adversity.

Auctioneer, n. The man who proclaims with a hammer that he has picked a pocket with his tongue.

Wendellisms

By *Wendell Trogdon, Indianapolis News*
Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton will celebrate 11 years of marital bliss on their 20th wedding anniversary.

Buffer for 10th CD racial issues gone with the wind?

From page 1

battle may well be as racially diverse with black candidates like Center Township Trustee Julia Carson and, possibly, Attorney General Pamela Carter, facing strong white candidates like Ann DeLaney and Jeff Modisett.

While none of these politicians has ever played the political "race card," the next two election cycles may bring racially diverse issues to the forefront of these campaigns.

Even President Clinton has expressed his "astonishment" over racial polarization in the aftermath of the Simpson verdict. "I think what has struck all Americans in the aftermath of the trial is the apparent differences of perception of the same set of facts based on the race of American citizens," Clinton said (John F. Harris, *Washington Post*).

There are other forces at work that could come into play as new political faces come on the scene in the 10th CD after the reassuring legacies of Jacobs and Bill Huc nut fade into the shadows.

U.S. News & World Report positioned the uncertainty this way: "African-Americans' growing disappointment is not confined to the cops, the courts and Republican legislators who are cutting back long-standing federal efforts to combat poverty and racial discrimination. Increasingly, black voters and officeholders are voicing discontent with the Democratic Party and beginning to contemplate alternatives that range from Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan's black nationalism to retired Gen. Colin Powell's possible campaign for the presidency - even if he runs as a Republican."

The fact that Scott polled 46 percent - nearly 20 percent above the 10th CD's black voting bloc suggests open-mindedness on the part of voters

But who lands on top of the national tickets in '96 also will have a major impact. In a recent *U.S. News & World Report* poll, African-American voters gave the following favorable/unfavorable ratings to these top level public figures: Clinton (84 percent/10 percent); Jesse Jackson (79/14); Powell (75/3); Farrakhan (40/31); Clarence Thomas (36/41); Ross Perot

(30/50); and Bob Dole (23/44).

Modisett occupies unique vantage point when it comes to racially diverse politics, the Congressional reforms, and the criminal justice system. Like Sen. Coats, he expressed surprise at what the former Marion County prosecutor calls the "muted" response to the Congressional reforms of Medicare/Medicaid and welfare.

"There is a general consensus that some reform is necessary," Modisett explained. "But it could be a real shocker for some. What we're seeing now is the most sophisticated players - the doctors and the lobbyists - are getting what they want on Medicaid and Medicare. It's after it is signed, sealed and delivered that we're going to see who's in and who's out."

1996 WATCH

On welfare, which is more of a state-by-state revolution as opposed to a Congressional one, Modisett notes, "Its constituency is a more disenfranchised and disengaged group who isn't even involved in the debate."

Modisett believes that 1996 "might not be a good year for Democrats" simply because the impact of the changes won't be fully realized. "But by '98 it will be. The pain will be felt acutely."

The potential danger for Democrats, as U.S. Rep. Mark Souder articulates in the HPR Interview on pages 6-7, is that if the widows and orphans don't appear on wintry street corners, it could set off a minority migration away from the party. The *U.S. News & World Report* poll reveals that while 87 percent of African-Americans questioned continue to hold a favorable view of the party, 29 percent have voted for a Republican over a Democrat, 12 percent have contemplated switching to the GOP, and 26 percent have thought of switching to a third party.

The Simpson verdict is a much trickier political entree in that no one can accurately predict what kind of political consequences it might have, if any. The polarization between black and white Americans as revealed by

continued on page 8

Anderson, Evansville incumbents look safe

HORSE R A C E

<u>RACE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
ANDERSON Lawler (D) v. Graham (R)	Safe D	Lawler is expected to cruise to a third term. Why? His Republican opponent's campaign to date has consisted of 1x2 ads in the <i>Herald-Bulletin</i> that read, "Two terms is enough." Graham is also on record saying he would begin his campaign in earnest 17 days out. Lawler for Congress in '96?
EVANSVILLE McDonald (D) v. Frary (R)	Safe D	Lori Frary weighs in on the local convention center controversy, calling for an expanded Vanderburgh Auditorium instead of buying the Green Convention Center. But McDonald gets ink for condemning recent cross burning in a city that elected a KKK mayor in 1925.
BLOOMINGTON Fernandez (D) v. White (R) v. Lewis (I)	Toss-Up	In '83, Tomi Allison defeated Jack Morrison with 62 percent of vote. But in '87 in a four-way race, Allison got a 171-vote win over Tim Ellis. <i>Herald-Times</i> reporter Steve Higgs suggests that "Lewis' candidacy is a threat to both" Fernandez and White. Also, Higgs writes of Fernandez: "His candidacy follows a closely contested Democratic primary with Charlotte Zietlow, the fallout from which may not be known until the November ballots are counted.

TICKER T A P E

Play of the Week

Republican gubernatorial contender *George Witwer* gets an endorsement from U.S. Rep. *Mark Souder*, adding credibility to his campaign.

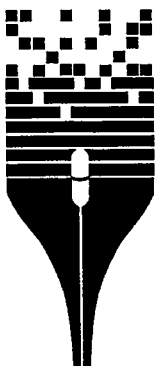


"Vice President *Dan Coats*?" Indiana's junior senator isn't going to follow *Dan Quayle's* footsteps and openly pursue a spot on the 1996 GOP ticket. But he is positioning himself to play a major role in developing the platform with his American Renewal Project. That could bring more limelight. Sources close to the senator noted that on a recent editorial board tour in Indiana, a number of out-state journalists inquired about his interest in becoming the veep. Coats told HPR earlier this week that he wouldn't turn the job down if offered.

State Sen. Joe Zakas traveled to Washington three weeks ago, met with GOP congressional leadership and is now seeking solidified support to run in the 3rd CD against U.S. Rep. *Tim Roemer*. A formal announcement is expected to come after the municipal elections. Zakas has also had lengthy discussions with U.S. Rep. *Mark Souder*.

Insiders in the camp of U.S. Rep. *John Hostettler* are

continued on page 4



The **Howey Political Report** is copyright 1995 by NewsLink Inc. All rights reserved. Photocopying, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or in part, is a violation of federal law and is strictly prohibited without the written consent of the editor.

Subscriptions, for 40 editions annually are:
 ■ \$250 - first class mail/fax ■ \$50 - news media

To order **The Howey Political Report**, call 317-685-0883 or by fax, 317-692-1032.

TICKER T A P E

expecting *State Rep. Rick McConnell* to win the 8th CD nomination next May, citing his strength with the United Mine Workers and other unions. Also, *Vanderburgh Commissioner Rick Borries* plan to buy the Green Convention Center has created a big debate over whether taxpayers should foot the \$5.1 million project.

Teamsters Local 215 President *Chuck Whobrey*, one of southwestern Indiana's most prominent labor leaders, survived a challenge from *Chester Brown*.

Jerry Houseman, the Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne political science professor, is expected to seek the 4th CD Democratic nomination for the right to challenge *Souder*.

The first week of Indiana's "occupation of Gary" has resulted in 79 criminal arrests made by the 50 state troopers sent into the crime-riddled city by *Gov. Evan Bayh* (*Will Higgins, Star-News*). Troopers have also written 478 traffic tickets and 808 warnings, which should improve the cash flow for the financially strapped Steel City. No word on whether potential Senate candidate *Bayh* has a camera crew in the city.

A number of Hoosier newspapers either have or will be rais-

continued on page 5

Star/News poll shows 11-point Goldsmith drop; Young calls it a 'free-fall' over two-race issue

INDIANAPOLIS - "Poll shows Goldsmith's approval rate falling," read the headline in the *Indianapolis Star* on Monday.

There in black and white were poll results that showed Mayor Stephen Goldsmith dropping 11 points since April.

"I prefer April's figures to these figures, but I'm doing the job I think is right," Goldsmith reacted (*Kathleen Johnston/Gerry Lanosga, Star/News*). He also characterized the polling as a "curious" result coming in what believes is the administration's best year.

The spin was quite different in the Rex Early camp. "This is demonstrative that Goldsmith is in free-fall," said State Rep. Mike Young, who is also Early's campaign manager. "Nothing has even happened. No one is beating up on him."

In fact, this past summer has been relatively good for Goldsmith with the opening of the Circle Centre Mall and his astute handling of a civil disturbance.

Young was intrigued by a recent Mason-Dixon poll as well as numbers former GOP Chairman Allan Hubbard used in a recent fund-raising letter, suggesting several weeks ago that Goldsmith was in "free fall."

Monday's published poll by Brian Vargus of the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory reignited Young's spin.

"We've been trying to tell the media for two weeks that he's in free-fall," Young said. "We think running for two offices is a problem. He's the Joe Hogsett of the Republican Party."

The "running for two offices" theme is becoming the cornerstone of Early's strategy against Goldsmith. He works it into nearly every speech, telling a group of Republicans at the Blue Bonnet Restaurant in Brazil recently, "I will not be governor for the state of Indianapolis. I will be governor of the state of Indiana. There's a difference and I recognize that difference" (*Caryn Shinske, Brazil Times*).

Ray Rizzo, who is managing Bob Garton's gubernatorial campaign, reacted this way to the numbers: "It is a surprise to me to see Goldsmith's numbers evidently deteriorating during a period of time when nothing nega-

tive happened in the city that you could attribute to being bad news.

"This fact represents a challenge to the Goldsmith campaign to attempt to identify the source of the negatives."

Sources in most of the campaigns poised to butt heads with Goldsmith (this group includes Pat Rooney's) have identified the "two race" issue as a serious problem. The issue seriously crippled Joe Hogsett in his 1992 race against Sen. Dan Coats and, earlier this month, sent California Gov. Pete Wilson packing from the presidential race.

■ **Gubernatorial notes:** George Witwer's campaign is picking up steam. His criticism of the administration's handling of the I-69 Mid-Continent Highway Extension brought him great clips in Southwestern Indiana last week.

On Tuesday, he was endorsed by U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. "A revolution is taking place in Washington - a transfer of power to the states. As we in Congress work to return power to the states, it is crucial that our nation's governors have an innovative and compelling vision for leading America into the 21st Century. George Witwer has articulated such a vision for Indiana," Souder said.

■ Souder becomes the second congressman to endorse a gubernatorial candidate. Last month, U.S. Rep. Dan Burton endorsed Early.

■ U.S. Rep. David McIntosh was asked if he would take sides in the governor's race. "I'll be like Mike McDaniel and raise money for whoever wins," the Muncie Republican told HPR.

■ The *Evansville Courier's* Alan Julian got this dandy quote from Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel on how he is handling the four-way primary race for governor: "I'm so neutral, I'm a walking Switzerland." McDaniel further explained, "People are going to take sides, I know that. But they'll get over it (because) I believe that deep down Republicans will still want to have a Republican governor. And McDaniel added, "Evan Bayh was a one-shot wonder for the Democrats... Frank O'Bannon is no Evan Bayh."

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Robert Novak, *Chicago Sun-Times* - Political consultants Sal Russo and Tony Marsh have written Sen. Robert Dole saying they have no connection now with publisher Steve Forbes' campaign for president, but last month they produced a strategy plan for Forbes that did a number on the Republican front-runner. The Russo-Marsh plan, which cost Forbes \$56,000, said: "Dole's weaknesses are significant. He obviously lacks core beliefs. He is old enough to give voters concern. All know there is a mean Dole hiding in there someplace. Every candidate will be assaulting him viciously from now until he wins or gets out of the race."

Warren Buckler, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - For my money, though, the Circle Centre Mall in downtown Indianapolis, the newest arrival on the Hoosier Shopping Trail, is by far the most appealing, and not just to the senses. It also satisfies that residual longing many of us feel for shopping as it used to be, before the suburbs took over. I'm hugely impressed by the public officials and business folks in the Hoosier capital who decided that a flourishing presence is an essential part of any big city center. More important, they put their money - and, yes, the taxpayers' - where their mouths are. It's also clear to me that Circle Centre would not have been possible without three decades of inventive political - and, yes, Republican - leadership committed to a thriving city. Mayor, now U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, engineered the union of city and county. His successor, William Hudnut, came up with the idea of a downtown shopping center. Sixteen years later, after an exhaustive review by a skeptical Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, the new mall opened this month. Can a community that is spilling into nearby counties really hope to have a flourishing, identifiable city center again? Indianapolis...has a shot at it, if any town does.

Maureen Dowd, *New York Times* - In a culture where fame and infamy are interchangeable, it is easy for O.J. Simpson to be reabsorbed into the giant, churning media cycle. His rehabilita-

tion began, aptly, amid the din of everyone else cashing in: Marcia Clark has a team of agents at William Morris working on her book, TV and movie possibilities. Jurors have cut deals for the inside story of the deliberation that wasn't. Barry Scheck is developing his own television show for CBS (DNA Man?). Judge Itomaniac, as the TV critic Tom Shales calls him, is mulling his offers. No deals yet for the Akita.

David Rohn, *Indianapolis News* - The jury has been quick to reach its verdict in the O.J. Simpson case. I was even quicker. Even before closing arguments, I decided that Mark Fuhrman really was dumb and venal enough to have planted the bloody socks in Simpson's bedroom. But it was Simpson who dropped the bloody glove after committing the murders. Why didn't the glove fit? Any youngster north of the Mason-Dixon line who has ever tried to put on a leather glove that fried overnight on a furnace radiator after the glove got soaking wet in a snowball fight knows why the glove didn't fit.

Brian Howey, *HPR* - You were watching television, way back in 1976. A political commercial flickered on. What you heard revealed the hot rhetoric and pandemonium on the Democratic side prior to the May primary. But the picture, panning at a wide angle, showed the darkened Indiana Statehouse at night, save one window. The camera slowly zeroed in on that one second floor window. Finally, the defining image emerged: Doc Bowen, the incumbent Republican governor, toiling away at his desk when everyone else had gone home. And the announcer intones that while the Democrats have been flailing away at themselves, the one constant is Bowen, quietly and effectively doing his job. It was a landmark political ad, and it contributed to Bowen's landslide re-election victory that year. One can imagine the first Frank O'Bannon ad, running 24 hours after the May 1996 primary, of the lieutenant governor's office light shining late at night. You know what he's been working so hard at...keeping those taxes down.

TICKER TAPE

ing subscription rates. The reason is a jump in newsprint prices from an average of \$410 per metric ton in the second quarter of 1992 to \$750 a ton now, which is an all-time high. The reason for the increase is that in the late 1980s, North American newsprint manufacturers began building new facilities to meet an increasing demand for paper with recycled content. As the new mills began producing, global economic growth declined and prices plummeted. Hoosier newspapers are meeting the skyrocketing costs by cutting news hole, raising rates, and cutting back on wage increases and benefits.

Vanderburgh County's 30-year tradition - the Democratic Hot Dog Rally - has been cancelled because of a drunken driving fatality two years ago (*Alan Julian, Evansville Courier*). A party worker was involved in an accident that killed her 6-year-old son. She later pled guilty to felony drunken driving charges. Since then, the Democratic Party has been named in two lawsuits, claiming the Democrats were negligent in serving the woman alcohol. Both suits are pending.

U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton has written to Toyota Chairman Shoichiro Toyoda, offering to personally show the Japanese carmakers around Southern

continued on page 7

Souder says he'll have to explain if government *doesn't* shut down

HPR INTERVIEW

"Our leadership is queasy about it and Clinton doesn't want it to happen. Because we are willing to go to the brink or over the brink if necessary, it's not so much that we have philosophical differences, but strategic differences...."

- Rep. Mark Souder



U.S. Rep. Mark Souder is one of 73 Republican freshmen in Congress, and a hard-liner when it comes to the looming "train wreck" with President Clinton over the budget bill.

Souder talked energetically about the "second wave" of the GOP revolution as early as last December. HPR conducted this phone interview with him on whether the train wreck will happen, why the polls are so bad for the GOP agenda, how freshmen and leadership are responding to those polls, and how the voting public might react in the 1996 elections.

HPR: How is the second wave materializing, particularly with the issues of Medicaid, Medicare and welfare?

Souder: Everything is so driven by the budget that the normal process of Congress would be to be authorizing bills, and then we give the details of what you can do with it, and then you do the appropriating. It's clear that Clinton doesn't have to sign any of the authorizing bills or anything we pass other than the appropriations bills. So all the attention has really zeroed in on all the appropriating bill. Unlike when the Democrats were in control, now all the authorizers and the appropriators are working together. We clearly realized that everything is now budget. So when we talk about Medicare reform, Medicaid reform or defense, it all spins around the dollars question, the budget question. The core, second big debate other than the budget is when the Speaker says that the big four issues are balancing the budget by 2002, saving Medicare, reforming welfare and cutting taxes is that in line with what the Republican majority came in power with?

HPR: Are you in sync with the leadership?

Souder: I don't think any of us doubt that balancing the budget was. Part of balancing the budget is that unless you get control of the costs, at least to a degree, of Medicaid and Medicare, which are comparatively minimal, you can kiss any balanced budget off. Welfare reform clearly has to be part of that, too. So it's

not that we're saying those aren't important, but another question is that the appropriating process has gotten a lot more muddled. Riders, attachments to the appropriating bills, are gaining much more importance than they normally would. For example, many of us had a lot of our core supports as social conservatives. Some of them were pro-life, some were concerned about trends in education, some of them were concerned about the gun issue. We had many who were concerned about regulatory reform, ranging from farmers to small businessmen, ranging from definitions of wetlands to OSHA reforms. Just to say when it's all said and done and we go back, hey look, we balanced the budget, saved Medicare, reformed welfare and cut taxes. They're going to say, "That's nice. But what about this?" And so a lot of the fight we're having right now with the President, with the Senate and internally is centered around and zeroing in on these riders and attachments.

HPR: Many news accounts have painted the House freshmen as iconoclastic and dogmatic. Can you give me a sense of how you are faring with your own leadership?

Souder: Without making overly sweeping generalizations because when you have a class as big as our's you don't ever have unanimity, there are a couple of examples of where we had unanimity. We heard that our leadership was going to compromise and extend the debt limit in the budget from seven years to eight years. (Rep. John) Kasich said, "You wouldn't take eight years and save our whole agenda?" The answer was, "No." That's arguing with friends. Some people view that as dogmatic. But I would put forth that one of the things we're trying to do in the freshman class is re-establish some integrity in government. Look at the rise of Colin Powell, much like the early rise of Ross Perot. People were fed up with the two parties and felt that they needed to go with someone who wasn't part of that system. Secondly, the guy was a billionaire and nobody was going to buy him or tell him what to do. The more people learned about him, the more he dropped in the polls. Colin Powell, whatever else you feel about

him, clearly is a man of character. There's a hunger in the American people for integrity. I hear people in the 4th District telling me, 'I don't necessarily agree with what you're doing. But you're doing what you said you'd do.' That's kind of where we're at in this round with our leadership.

HPR: There has been a spate of polls this past week showing the Republican agenda is no longer favored by the public, and even Pope John Paul II seemed critical of the GOP agenda in a very political speech. Is this a time when you tell yourselves, 'Be brave, hold the line?'

Souder: We're going to our leadership and not saying, 'Hold to your guns, this is what we've committed.' We're going to our leadership and saying, 'You don't have the votes to pass the debt limit or the budget reconciliation unless you hold firm.' It's not a kind of convincing process. It's political reality. It's a reality gut check. As far as internally, most of the people who have those beliefs know that if the public doesn't like it, we'll get beat. Now, some of what you're suggesting was actually done in a conference in Leesburg, Virginia, right after we did the Contract, went back to our districts for town meetings and then came back. They brought in Gov. Engler of Michigan and Gov. Weld of Massachusetts. Engler started out how he started the reforms in Michigan and the polls just after his election showed they were highly thought of. Then he just stood there and read for 20 minutes clips from the *Detroit News* and the *Detroit Free Press* where it said, "Homeless man dies because of Engler budget cuts." He read headline after headline after headline of really nasty stuff. He dropped down into the 20s. His message was that in the next year, you are going to drop down in popularity. The media attacks will be relentless. The pictures will be there, the distortion will be there and the other side will be hammering. He said, "But I won re-election overwhelmingly because the popular will will bend, but if you hold firm, the public snapped back and reacted against the media and for me because I did what I said I would do." Weld repeated the same thing, even nastier headlines in the *Boston Globe*. He dropped all the way into the teens in popularity. He told us to hunker down,

but remember that the people will stick with you if you stick with what you told them.

HPR: Is the whole class hunkering down?

Souder: There is some occasional panic over one issue or another. But let's say that if someone veers off on environmental issues, it's because they weren't really with us on environmental issues in the first place. Our differences with the Speaker and Majority Leader Arney aren't over what should be done, but are often tactical arguments over what we should give up. The core difference here is that we are totally willing to have a shutdown of the federal government. Our leadership is queasy about it and Clinton doesn't want it to happen. Because we are willing to go to the brink or over the brink if necessary, it's not so much that we have philosophical differences, but strategic differences.

HPR: If government does shut down, how do you come back to the 4th District and explain that?

Souder: I am going to have to come back and explain if it didn't shut down.

HPR: Because that would be a reaffirmation of the status quo?

Souder: Yeah. And people know that if it doesn't shut down, we compromised and the question is, what did we compromise?

HPR: Will the average Joe on the street in Fort Wayne or Albion see it that way?

Souder: I think the average Joe on the street doesn't give two hoots about politics in between elections, other than they think it's pretty corrupt. They're trying to raise their families, go to their jobs, go to football games, wonder about the O.J. trial. They don't care about politics. A higher percentage of people than used to are following the process on C-Span, your newsletter, in the newspaper. But still a majority of the people still aren't following it. The question is how do the people who are following it closely react to something like this? Let's go back to the average Joe for a minute. He'll say, if the media portrays it as a bunch of nasty freshmen shut down the government because they didn't like the direction, the average Joe is going to say, 'Hey, we've got a different group of people out there. These guys must be serious.'

TICKER T A P E

Indiana (*Jim O'Connell, Evansville Courier*). Toyota is considering sites in Lawrenceburg and Evansville for a new plant.

Steve Bell, the Ball State telecommunications instructor, was sharply critical of U.S. Rep. *David McIntosh's* decision to stop doing a TV call-in show. Bell told WISH-TV's *Jim Shella* that a McIntosh staffer "has a lot of growing up to do." McIntosh wants to take the call-in show to Network Indiana after Bell refused to give up "editorial control." Said McIntosh, "I like Steve Bell. I think he's doing a good job." The freshman congressman added that he wanted to be able to do one cable program, instead of four different ones in four different cities.

Gov. Evan Bayh announced "drastic cuts and reductions" in over a third of current state fees during a Thursday news conference.

Legislators have begun grappling with *State Sen. James Merritt's* plan to privatize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. "I think there is a consensus that the BMV is one of the biggest problems in state government," said House Speaker *Paul Mannweiler*. Merritt said that Hoosiers "need a more accessible method of service from the BMV" by fax or the Internet.

Modisett wasn't surprised by Simpson verdict

From page 2

numerous public opinion polls suggests a difference in institutional trust.

Modisett was not shocked by the verdict, saying it was easier for a white prosecutor to understand as opposed to the rest of the white population. "Some of the problems that occurred didn't surprise us," he said, noting crime lab contamination, mistakes by the investigators and lies by police. "It's not chronic, but every prosecutor has seen it happen.

He said that each American "saw the evidence differently through their own life circumstances."

The difference in reactions in various community establishments reflected this. "In my opinion, when African-

1996

WATCH



was no longer a case about O.J. This became much more than that. It was representative of what was going on in the criminal justice system of the United States."

Modisett said that a number of his African-American friends told him, "I felt like I was on trial. I felt the system itself was on trial and it couldn't have been business as usual."

If you watched the Sunday morn-

Americans cheered the verdict, it wasn't so much that O.J. got away. This

ing TV news shows where political figures like Pat Buchanan and William Bennett were calling the verdict a travesty of justice, it might be easy to figure there could be "white backlash."

He added that it is incumbent on all political figures in the 10th CD "to try to keep diverse groups working together in the system.

"The reason there won't be a backlash is that I feel I can go into any group - either white or black - and explain what happened."

The 10th CD has only gone Republican once (in 1972) since 1964. The district voted for Clinton (47 percent) and Dukakis (51 percent) in the last two presidential elections



Speech! Speech!

Looking for an informative and entertaining political element for your next convention, seminar or company retreat?

Contact NewsLink, Inc.

317-685-0883

HPR political analyst Brian Howey: He was alone in predicting the GOP takeover of the Indiana House and three congressional seats in 1994. Howey's speech and analysis credentials include: The Lugar Symposium, University of Indianapolis; League of Women Voters; The Mike Pence Show; WNIT's "Ask the Mayor;" WBNI Community Forum; Indiana-Purdue, Fort Wayne; Indiana University, Kokomo; Manchester College; Indiana University at South Bend; Indiana Christian Coalition; Indiana Democratic Editorial Association and the Fort Wayne Downtown Rotary. Get the fresh insights, the insider game and the straight-shooting political analysis from Indiana's leading political writer.

HPR cartoonist Bob Lang: He is an up-and-coming political illustrator whose work appears both nationally and in Indiana in the Limbaugh Letter, Hudson Institute, Frost Illustrated, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, and the Columbia City Post & Mail. Lang was the winner of the 1995 National Newspaper Publisher's Association Best Editorial Cartoon of the