

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“You may be getting warm now....”

—U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, on a suggestion that he might be interested in being Secretary of Agriculture, at his campaign farewell press conference on Wednesday. Lugar said he is not interested in either vice president or secretary of state.

Time running out for Early campaign

Realtor’s poll has Goldsmith up 57-15 percent

HPR gubernatorial forecast: Time is running out for the Rex Early campaign. A poll taken three weeks into his first big media buy shows him significantly behind Stephen Goldsmith. With the primary only eight weeks away, there is a consensus building that he will have to do something quickly to cut into Goldsmith’s lead.



INDIANAPOLIS - Rex Early’s gubernatorial campaign is clearly in a set-up mode. Two television advertisements produced by Stuart Stevens didn’t cite Goldsmith by name. But the first, which began airing late last week, explained, “Per thousand people, New York City is a safer place to live than Indianapolis.” New York City?!

In a second ad, Early suggested that “some politicians disagree” when it comes to taking money from gambling interests. Why not name Goldsmith, as he was so willing to do last fall?

“I don’t think we have to get other people involved,” said State Rep. Mike Young, Early’s campaign manager.

Both ads are clearly set-ups for tougher messages aimed at Goldsmith to follow. But with only 60 days left in the campaign, time is clearly running out.

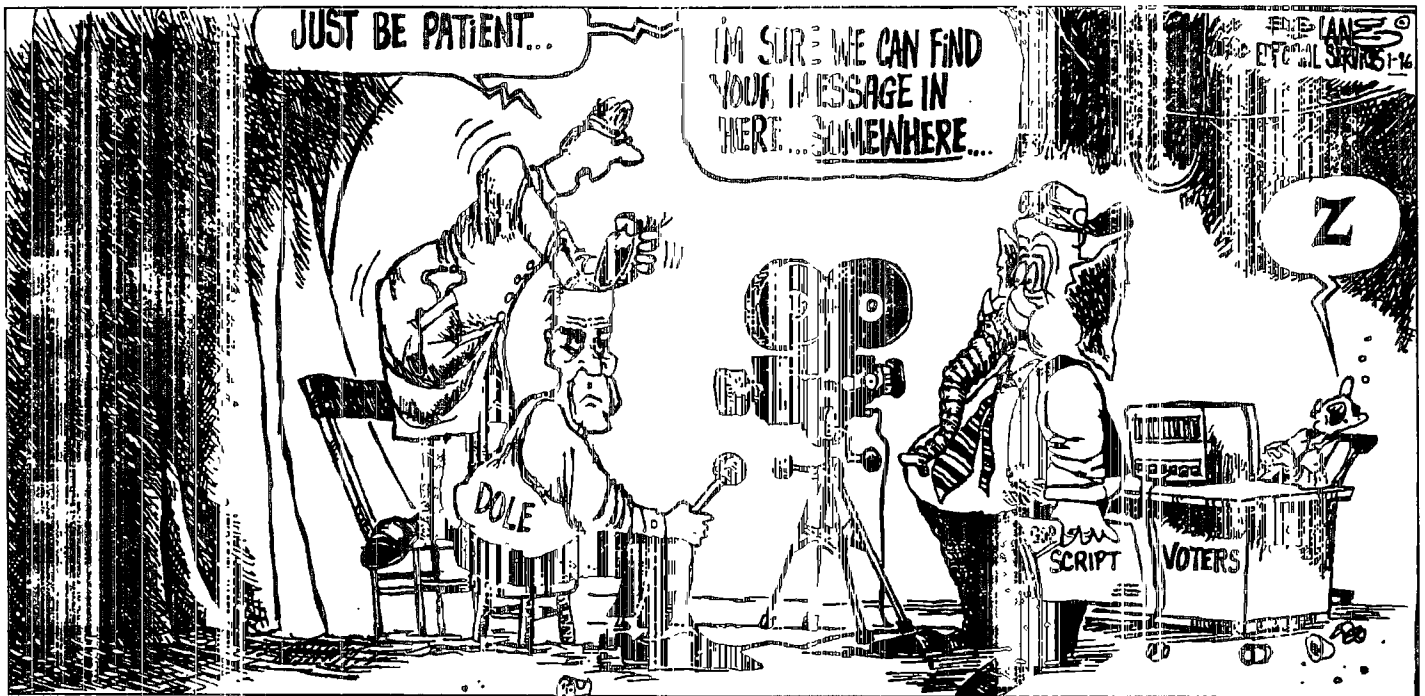
A Public Opinion Strategies poll conducted Feb. 18-22 on behalf of the Indiana Realtors Association for tax reform purposes, gave Goldsmith a 57 percent lead, with Early coming in at 15 percent, George Witwer at 4 percent and 23 percent undecided. The significance of this poll over the *Indianapolis Star*/WTHR poll is that it was conducted three weeks into Early’s first big media buy on Super Bowl weekend.

Early’s forces clearly hoped that the ads would help establish name ID and up his positives. What the POS poll shows is that Goldsmith is not in “free-fall” as the Early campaign has been spinning since last November. The dilemma facing the Early campaign

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TICKER T A P E

PLAY OF THE WEEK: Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel, for attempting to correct his journalistic counterparts on the PBS TV show, "Indiana Week in Review." Panel members referred to those attending the Families First gubernatorial debate in Richmond as "extremists." McDaniel pressed panelists Susan Dillman, Jim Shella and Jon Schwantes on the use of the term "extremist" and maintained that those attending should be considered normal Republicans.

If Stephen Goldsmith clobers Rex Early in the May 7 primary, it will simply be a continuation of a an impotent trend (yes,

Continued on page 3

Lugar bows out, endorses Bob Dole for president

MANCHESTER, N.H. - The handwriting was, literally, on the wall at Lugar campaign headquarters on Elm Street:

*"So much style without substance,
So much stuff without style,
It's hard to recognize the real thing,
It comes once in awhile,
Like a rare, precious metal,
Beneath a ton of rock,
It takes some time and trouble,
To separate from the stock."*

From an Indiana perspective, that sums up the presidential campaign of U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar. Even though many could "see" Dick Lugar in the oval office, they could never understand how he would get there. It all came down to success in Vermont, perhaps the first presidential campaign that ever hinged on carrying that state.

Lugar read different handwriting on Tuesday when Sen. Bob Dole swept the Mini-Tuesday primaries. On Wednesday, Lugar said at a press conference, "I will not file as a presidential candidate in Indiana. Char and I will vote for Bob Dole and I'm asking my friends to do the same."

There was some reflection on the candidate's part, saying at one point, "We have to do

better as a campaign. If we had known what we know now..."

Those elements include an earlier start in organization and fund-raising, apparent prerequisites in order to get valuable consideration from the media gatekeepers. Close Lugar sources explain that Lugar will likely either run

LUGAR
WATCH

for president or re-election as senator in 2000. "We've learned," Lugar said, perhaps a veiled remark at a possible presidential campaign in 2000 should Dole lose to President Clinton.

If that happens, the earliest skirmishes may come in Indiana, where former Vice President Dan Quayle is said to be seriously weighing a run. As occurred this year, conventional wisdom would seem that both couldn't run because of a lack of Hoosier fundraising base.

That wall on Elm Street in Manchester contained other sources of rhetorical wisdom:

"What about Bob?"

"Do you have a calling?"

And, finally, this: "Be glad you're here because there's no here there."

Dole, Blankenbaker moving; Goldsmith lead huge over Rex

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: **Boldface** in the **Status** column means change. And we have two changes since just last week. Bob Dole looks to be the Republican presidential nominee. Secondly, based on polling data we've seen, Virginia Blankenbaker has taken the GOP's 10th CD out of the tossup zone.

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT

STATUS

COMMENTS

Pat Buchanan, Bob Dole,
Steve Forbes, Alan Keyes

SAFE
DOLE

As HPR predicted last edition, Dole has this locked up. NBC/WSJ poll (2,001 adults, +/- 4%) has Clinton over Dole 53-34 percent. Exactly four years prior, Bush led Clinton 51-39 percent.

REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR

Rex Early, Steve Goldsmith
George Witwer

Leans
Goldsmith

Public Opinion Strategies poll (Feb. 18-20, 500 registered) has Goldsmith at 57 percent, Early at 15 and Witwer at 4. This is key because it comes 3 weeks into Early's first media buy. Goldsmith not advertising in Indy, which screams confidence. Early runs set-up gambling ad.

REPUBLICAN 7TH CD

Jeff Baldwin, John Meyers,
Ed Pease, Dan Pool, John
Lee Smith, Dick Thompson,
Cathy Willing and 8 others

Leans
Thompson

Thompson seen as the man to beat, but crowded field could spawn surprise, particularly John Meyers. Top challengers would be Pease, Pool & Willing. Will Rep. John Myers stand idly by?

REPUBLICAN 10TH CD

Virginia Blankenbaker,
Marvin Scott

LEANS
BLANKEN
-BAKER

Matthews Poll (Feb. 22-23, 300 registered, +/- 5 percent) gives Blankenbaker 45-23 percent lead. Scott outraged many Hudnut loyalists with slating antics and they are moving towards Blankenbaker instead of sitting this one out.

REPUBLICAN 78TH INDIANA HOUSE

Vaneta Becker, Scott
Minnette

LEANS
BECKER

Becker votes for parental rights, which is a revealing move to the right. Pocket City sources say Minnette's financial backing is limited. Leans Becker, but she's not out of the woods.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Thirty-some entries, but hot names are George Witwer and Sue Anne Gilroy for the R's, and AG Pam Carter for the D's

LEANS
GILROY;
LEANS
CARTER

Why is Pam Carter on *Indiana Week in Review*? Why does Gilroy have a new political director? Clues of intrigue. Could be the year of the Female. Witwer makes the cut because of geographical balance and avid core believers.

TICKER T A P E

there is no "R" in that word) for county chairs. Two vivid examples: *John Sweezy's* "sure thing" nomination for *Bill Hudnut* turns into a major embarrassment in Marion County. And down in Evansville, *Vanderburgh County Democratic Chairman Mark Owen* twisted a lot of arms on behalf of *Prosecutor Stan Levco* in the 8th CD slating. *Jonathan Weinzapfel* won; *Levco* dropped out and now some 8th CD Dems think that biggest beneficiary will be *Princeton State Rep. Rick McConnell*.

State Rep. Mike Young raised eyebrows when he said in an *Indianapolis Star* interview that the *Rex Early* campaign would stop taking campaign contributions from *Paul Estridge Jr.* if he ever received a gaming license. "When (Estridge) gets a license, we'll stop taking his money," Young said. Estridge, who was involved with attempts to establish a race track at Shelbyville and is working on a \$20 million plan for the State Fairgrounds oval, contributed \$36,700 to Early's campaign in 1995. It tended to blunt Early's looming attacks on Goldsmith for taking campaign contributions from casino interests.

Sources tell HPR that in light

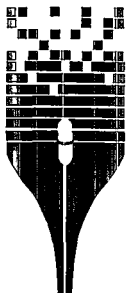
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Wabash College's David Hadley searches the soul of PACs, parties

HPR INTERVIEW

"The political parties make the democratic system work and make it accountable. Anything we can do to strengthen parties and make them central to the process would be good. But there are many things working against that."

- Prof. David Hadley



CRAWFORDSVILLE - There has never been a more scrutinized short session of the Indiana General Assembly than this year's. There have been major series on the relationship between legislators, PACs and lobbyists in the *Indianapolis Star/News*, *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel*, *Evansville Courier*, WISH-TV and WTHR-TV since last fall.

All of these series call into question whether PACs and lobbyists have undue influence over legislators with campaign contributions and gifts.

HPR turned to David Hadley, dean of students at Wabash College and a professor of political science, for his thoughts on the relationships between Indiana lawmakers and special interests.

HPR: The relationships between PACs, lobbyists and lawmakers have been under intense scrutiny. Were PACs the result of post-Watergate reforms?

Hadley: There were PACs before Watergate. In fact in Indiana, labor unions for years had PACs and it's my recollection that the Campaign Finance Act of 1971 and subsequent amendments in 1974 in an effort to bring disclosure and to systematize contributions to candidates basically authorized the establishment of corporate and party PACs.

HPR: Have the rise of the PACs come at the expense of the declining political parties?

Hadley: Political parties certainly haven't gone out of business. But the institutionalization of PACs has been utilized by political parties. It has also helped transform political parties. That has happened in a couple of ways. I mean one of the things you see is in the mid-1970s the creation of legislative party caucus PACs and legislative leadership PACs. Those really have been nourished by the multiplication of or tremendous increase in corporate, business and interest group PACs.

HPR: These newspaper series accentuated the belief that these PACs have not only taken on profound levels of campaign funding but they are also directing the public policy process in the legislature. Do you agree with that

premise? Are they that powerful?

Hadley: Certainly they are powerful and influential. Businesses and interests in general have always been very much a part of the Indiana political process. As campaigns have become more expensive, the prominence and importance of PACs has increased. It's hard to know where on this ball of string which end of the string you pull.

HPR: Are these PACs disproportionately powerful?

Hadley: Well, talking to legislators and being around the process, they have become important - very important in access to the process. No one I know would say PAC contributions buy votes. But they are important to ushering access and open doors...

HPR: Establishing relationships?

Hadley: Establishing relationships, yes, so that one can participate in the discussions and have one's views heard regularly.

HPR: Are PACs more or less accountable to the public than political parties?

Hadley: Who's accountable to no one?

HPR: One premise in several of these news series is that PACs and special interests aren't accountable to the public.

Hadley: It's not only corporations, this is really the vehicle through which interests in our system operate these days. It used to be that political parties were much more the vehicle through which interests participated. Now, it's in part the way the nature of politics has changed. It's become much more media oriented; much more expensive. We've increased the importance of primary elections over time, particularly at the gubernatorial and senatorial level since the mid-1970s. Any number of kinds of things have tilted this system more toward media politics. It's a more expensive process. Interests which may have participated through the party process are now more inclined to work through the PAC process.

HPR: Are they interdependent?

Hadley: At this point, they're very much intertwined, yes. I don't know what's going to come down the road 20 years from now to

change things. But certainly at this point, campaign finances are central to success to the state political process, to the national political process. PAC contributions to campaign efforts are very important. Certainly parties have gotten more effective in raising their own money, but in part they do that by helping the PACs.

HPR: What kind of campaign finance reform makes sense for Indiana?

Hadley: Effective public disclosure that involves, among other things, sophisticated, usable computerized system of reporting by those who give and those who receive and those who distribute.

HPR: Do you believe the Indianapolis Star series effectively portrayed a breakdown in the disclosure system?

Hadley: If you go to the Indiana Election Commission, those reports for media or general citizen use are too cumbersome to be effectively used on a regular basis. For instance, I don't think there is an effective public disclosure system at all.

HPR: What ways would you recommend changes to improve disclosure?

Hadley: Reports have to be made by computer, by computer disk, computer file transfer using standardized formats.

HPR: Are there ways that Indiana lawmakers should be looking to strengthen the political parties?

Hadley: I have always been a strong believer in a two-party system. The political parties make the democratic system work and make it accountable. Anything we can do to strengthen parties and make them central to the process would be good. But there are many things working against that. The expense of elections is one thing working against them. I don't know how to get around this, but there's been an anti-party sentiment which has been around for years that works against that.

HPR: In the 1970s nationally and in Indiana in the 1980s due to the license branch controversies it appears that many citizens equated the parties as being corrupt. Then the PACs came in to replace some functions and now people are saying the PACs are corrupting the process. Would it be better to go back and try to rectify the problems in the party structure, or is there an entirely different way to go?

Hadley: I would like to think there is a way to strengthen the parties, but I'm not sure there is a way to do that. We're not going to find an effective way to turn back the clock. In some ways, meaningful party caucuses and conventions are useful mechanisms that show party processes doing important work. Now with primary elections as the mechanism for selecting candidates, one of those important functions has been removed. On the other hand, I don't see the general public willing to go back to the convention process even if you assured the public there were ways you could make sure that boss-ruled or brokered conventions wouldn't occur. I just don't think the public is willing to buy that. I guess what I'm saying at this point is that parties have been important, but I don't think we know of a way to recreate them that would be generally acceptable.

HPR: Are they on the heels of the dinosaur?

Hadley: Oh, I don't want to look at them that way, having been a long-time believer in the political parties. I don't like to think of them as dinosaurs. But in some ways, they may be. We've taken away over almost a century now important functions or roles that they played. Without either the reason to exist or the capacity to preserve themselves, to maintain themselves, they become less useful to us as voting citizens. We end up turning our support to individual candidates to become prominent by their abilities to gain media attention, to raise their own money. Parties become less a mechanism for organization, for contesting public office, for governing within the system and more vehicles that individuals or factions can capture to use for their own electoral purposes. That's where we've been.

HPR: Is Indiana better governed now than it was, say, 30 years ago?

Hadley: Different. The process is much more open. Even though we talk about influence of PACs and interest groups, there certainly was strong influence of interests groups 30 years ago. That influence was limited to a much narrower range of groups. It makes a difference which party has a majority in the legislature, just as it did 30 years ago. The range of groups participating and having access through the parties has expanded. But it's more chaotic.

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of revelations in last Sunday's *Indianapolis Star*, *State Rep. Sam Turpin's* days as a Conseco employee are numbered. And if Turpin has a particularly bad summer, Democrat *Thomas Downey* may have a fighting chance in Turpin's 40th District.

Sources in the *Goldsmith* campaign insist that allegations in *NUVO* of a serious FBI investigation "aren't worth a response." *Goldsmith* believes the *NUVO* reporter, who the campaign says has been prosecuted by *Goldsmith*, isn't credible. Said the source, "That's why the rest of the Indianapolis media isn't working the story."

Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon now has a homepage on the worldwide web. He can be reached at <http://www.state.in.us>. Said O'Bannon, "My participation on the ACCESS INDIANA network is just another way that Hoosiers can get in touch with me and to find out what is going on within state government."

Here's a sign of things to come. *Judy O'Bannon* presented a \$200,000 grant from the Indiana Housing Finance Authority to the Delaware County Commissioners and A Better Way, an emergency shelter. Mrs. O'Bannon is

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expected to play a major campaign trail role heading into the general election.

Gov. Evan Bayh has teamed up on an anti-drug video with **Bobby Knight, Michael Jordan, Scottie Pipen, Charles Barkley, John Stockton, Isiah Thomas and Kevin McHale.** And if you think Bayh has surrounded himself with good company, **Frank O'Bannon** has enlisted Colts QB **Jim Harbaugh** to kick off **Indiana Close Up**, a strategy session for small businesses in Bloomington on March 26.

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder stirred up controversy with recent remarks at a town meeting in Angola, Ind. He had mentioned "fetal cannibalism" in China based on reports he had seen in the *Eastern Express*, an English-language newspaper in Hong Kong. Said Souder, "Last year, Congress asked a number of non-government human rights organizations to investigate these reports. Because some groups do not view fetuses as human beings, they did not recognize the reported practice of fetal cannibalism as an abuse of human rights." Souder said in the Angola meeting that he also addressed concerns about China including forced labor and Tianamen Square.

U.S. Sen. Bob Dole had this to

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

John Krull, Indianapolis News - Even before Richard Lugar began his lonely, almost pathetic traipse across Vermont in search of support, any support, for his fading presidential campaign, his advocates began advancing an indictment of the American political system. It was a horrible thing, they said, that a man as competent as Dick Lugar - clearly, they argued, the best candidate qualified to be president - could not win more votes than he did. If Lugar couldn't do well, then there must be some problem with the process. What other explanation could there be? Well, maybe this: Lugar would not have been a good president, and the voters knew that. It's not that Dick Lugar is not a good man or that he has not performed admirable service in the U.S. Senate. He is and he has. Being president, though, calls for a different set of skills than he has. The office requires a different temperament than Lugar's. The office does not confer upon the person who holds the office the power to dictate policy. Rather, the office gives the president the world's most prominent platform. That is why this country's most successful presidents - Jefferson, Lincoln, the Roosevelts and Reagan - have been gifted communicators. They were all adept at using the media available to them, and skilled in the art of persuasion. Dick Lugar is not. In order to persuade people, one must first be able to keep them awake.

John Harmon, Columbus Republic - (U.S. Rep. David) McIntosh has the weekend jaunts to the sprawling 2nd District down to a routine, leaving Thursday night and returning Monday or Tuesday morning, arriving in Washington around noon. "I've grown used to it," McIntosh said. "The town meetings are where you can pick up a lot of information. Enough input that he is optimistic about a second Contract With America for the next session. He found the most significant impact of the first contract reflected in President Clinton's State of the Union address, which contained several elements of it. While many critics say that much of the contract has been torpedoed, McIntosh noted that

the House batted 30 for 31 on passing elements, such as defense restoration, unfunded mandates, regulatory reform and litigation reform. "We'll need another wave of freshmen to have term limits, though," McIntosh said.

Morton Marcus, Indianapolis Business Journal - Pat Buchanan sees our problems are caused by foreigners. American workers face unfair competition from a flood of immigrants. Under NAFTA, our permeable border allows Mexican products to enter this country. To solve these problems, to restore high-paying jobs, Buchanan proposes higher tariffs and a wall from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. You may question tariffs, but the wall is a great idea; a similar structure helped East Germany achieve economic success. The wall will put tens of thousands of people to work. There will be mobile camps to support the men and women (will Buchanan allow women to work on the wall?) who pour concrete and press the bricks. Cooks, truck drivers, sanitation workers and sunstroke specialists will be needed in great numbers. Not since the Egyptian pyramids or the Great Wall of China has the world seen a project of such magnitude. This Great American Wall will become a tourist attraction to rival that Chinese wall.

Brian Howey, HPR - If you blended Forbes and Buchanan today, you'd get a 1990's version of Wendell Willkie. Forbes is the first serious GOP candidate from the party's financial/industrial wing since Willkie in 1940. Buchanan's "Go Pat Go" slogan and riot before the party establishment is similar to the '40 campaign cry of "Wee Waaant Willkie" from the galleries that forced Willkie's improbable nomination. There are differences. While Buchanan is preaching economic isolationism and nationalism, Willkie emerged from his travels to write the book "One World," his vision for international cooperation. All these campaigns have or are in the process of riding a political crest, while amazing in its dazzle and glint, will be smashed on the shore of certain defeat by autumn.

The looming Legislative wars: The Return of the Yingsts; Son of Sturtz; 'Brother Ray' and 'Tiny'

INDIANAPOLIS - Now that 252 Hoosiers are running for the legislature, here are some preliminary thoughts:

TOP HOUSE PRIMARIES: State Rep. Vaneta Becker's challenge from the right - Scott Minette - will be this year's Jim Buck-Brad Bailiff showdown in the GOP. Give the edge to Becker at this point. The most intriguing ideological battle comes in the 38th where retired school superintendent Wayne Long battles State Rep. Jim Buck, who has the edge. Henry County GOP Chairman Tom Saunders takes on Auditor Linda Ratliff and David Copenhaver in the 54th District. Three Democrats - Dave Crooks, Ron Critchlow and Dan Steiner - are seeking the 63rd District seat being vacated by Donald Hume. Give Crooks the early edge. Another trio, Brian Hasler, Glenda Hampton and Norbert Wooley, are seeking Jeff Hays' 77th District seat. Hasler is the man to beat there. A Democratic fight is on in Kokomo to see who gets to run against State Rep. Jon Padfield in the 30th. Democrats include Ron Herrell, Jerry Fulk and Mildred Bertram. Herrell is the frontrunner. HPR finds it interesting that State Rep. Jesse Villalpando has three primary opponents in the 12th District: Rene Gutierrez, Dave Spott and David Harretos. This could be because Villalpando is looking at the AG's nomination.

TOP SENATE PRIMARIES: In Shelby County, four Republicans - Robert Jackman, Don Frank Cherry, Gary Reding and Donald Robinson - are fighting to see who takes on young Shelbyville attorney J.D. Lux. Give Jackman the early edge. In St. Joseph County's 10th District, Sam Merchantini, Cleophus Washington and Rodney Sniadecki are in a battle to replace the retiring Democrat, Doug Hunt. Merchantini is the early favorite. In the Hendricks County seat State Sen. Dick Thompson is vacating, the battle is between Myron Anderson, Thomas Eggers, Connie Lawson, Barbara Quandt and Ed Schrier. Lawson is the early favorite.

LEGACIES: Allen County Democrats have to be given credit for developing some intriguing matchups, considering they let four

seats go uncontested in '94. One interesting matchup there is State Rep. Dale Sturtz's son, Robert, taking on State Rep. Gloria Goeglein in the general. Eddy Mahern will try to follow brother Louis into the legislature as he vies for the 97th District seat held by State Rep. Irene Heffley. Sen. Dick Worman's son, Dennis, is

1996 WATCH

challenging State Rep. Phyllis Pond in the 85th District primary.

OH NO, THE YINGSTS! In 1992, it was cute when Ned Yingst ran as a Republican and his wife, Beverly, ran as a Democrat in House District 50. Would somebody get this couple a gift certificate to a square dance club? Dan Stephan is safe.

NO-SHOW: Former Rep. Mitch Harper had been planning a run for the Senate seat being vacated by John Sinks. But former Fort Wayne Councilman David Long hustled early and scared Harper off. Long has the potential of being a real force in the Senate and beyond. He faces token primary opposition from Ron Buskirk and no fall opponent.

REMATCHES: Democrat Linda Kay Henderson is seeking the Bedford seat she lost to Brent Steele in '94. Ben GiaQuinta will try to reclaim his Fort Wayne seat from Republican John Becker. In the rhetoric department, State Rep. B. Patrick Bauer faces a general challenge from Zeal Fisher. State Rep. David Lohr will have a donnybrook on his hands against Democrat Vern Tincher. John Day is seeking his old 100th District seat, now held by Martha Womacks. Of course, there's the obligatory Don Edgar challenge to State Rep. Win Moses, now showing for the third time in Fort Wayne.

BEST NAMES: State Rep. Dean Mock faces a general challenge from Democrat Ravon "Brother Ray" Hall. Democrat Tiny Adams takes on State Rep. James Vanleer in the 34th. Paul Newman is running for the 37th District Senate as a Democrat.

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say about *Dick Lugar* on Wednesday: "He is a good friend and he ran a fine campaign." Lugar did nothing during his presidential campaign to alienate a chance to serve in a Dole cabinet, although Lugar hinted that his choice might be as Secretary of Agriculture instead of State. But that won't occur unless a Republican defeats *Frank O'Bannon* next November.

President Clinton has yet to officially declare his re-election campaign. "I asked him about that last night," said White House press secretary *Mike McCurry*. "He acted very bothered by the question and went back to signing some books." But WH sources suggest Clinton may formally declare in late April or May.

Indiana's two open U.S. House seats drew a total of 33 candidates. The 7th CD drew 19 candidates - four Democrats and 15 Republicans. The most intriguing candidacy in U.S. Rep. *John Myers'* district is last-minute entrant *John Meyers*, a former Tippecanoe County prosecutor. HPR suspects Sen. *Dick Thompson's* people are having bad dreams about that one.

Roll Call notes that Indiana Democrats "are most excited about their chance to beat

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David McIntosh in the 2nd CD. It described McIntosh as a "rising star." **Stuart Rothenberg** of the *Rothenberg Political Report* says of McIntosh, "He's in good shape for re-election barring a big Democratic wave."

The *Cook Political Report* says of the 3rd CD, "Tim Roemer is in real jeopardy. Even Roemer seems to be under no illusions about the fact that, statistically speaking, a Democrat does not belong in this district, which gave Bush a 4-point edge over Clinton in 1992 and 58 percent against Dukakis in 1992."



Goldsmith 'showed more fire than I had seen before'

From page 1

appears to be a reluctance to be the first to go negative. Yet election after election has proved an industry standard that going negative is the only way to drive numbers.

Goldsmith, with a reputation as being a cold-hearted, steely policy wonk who didn't jell with voters in 1988, has been disproving that on the campaign trail during the past week.

His performance at the Families First debate in Richmond is an indication that the mayor is warming up to his out-state audiences. When the candidates were asked what benefits were at their core, Goldsmith responded that it was "the most interesting question in my 17 years of public life." His response, said Mike Pence, who moderated the panel involving Early and Witwer, "moved the room."

Goldsmith also impressed observers at a recent Lincoln Day Dinner in Miami County. An HPR source uncommitted to any of the candidates explained, "He table-hopped all evening, was very personable and showed more fire during his speech than I had observed in him before."

The other unmistakable sign that

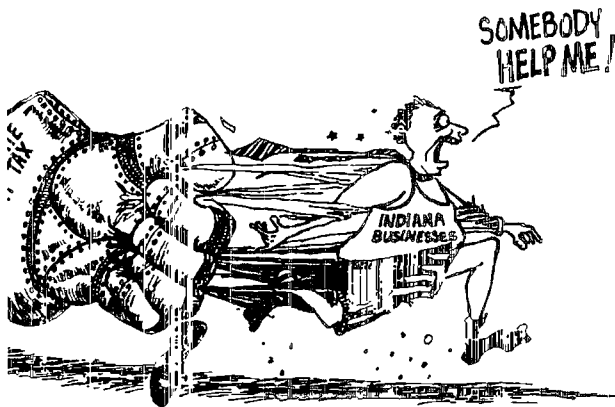
Indiana Democrats are realizing that Goldsmith will probably be Frank O'Bannon's opponent next fall was their "truth squad" of Jeff Modisett and Kip Tew who followed Goldsmith to Fort Wayne and the South Bend/Elkhart area the same day the mayor unveiled his plan to abolish welfare and institute a work-based system.

Tew told Jack Colwell of the *South Bend Tribune* that Goldsmith had "presided over the two bloodiest years in Indianapolis history." Modisett claimed he had been much tougher as Marion County prosecutor than Goldsmith.

And Goldsmith's spin? Speaking in Elkhart, the mayor suggested the truth squads dogging him were a "clear sign" that the Democrats would rather face someone else in the fall. "I hope the Republican primary voters will be offended," Goldsmith said.

Goldsmith's unveiling of his welfare program in Elkhart and Fort Wayne were strategic. He has targeted those Republican-rich areas in TV ads featuring Marilyn Quayle.

"The fact that he's not on Indianapolis TV should tell you something," observed Jim Knoop, former Pat Rooney campaign manager now with the Blankenbaker campaign.



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