

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Howey Political Report is published 40 times a year by NewsLink, Inc. Founded in 1994, The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana..

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Subscriptions: \$250 annually via fax or first class mail. Call subscription office at 317-254-1533.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Who knows?”

- **U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, on whether the sex scandals around President Clinton will impact her re-election campaign in the 10th CD.**

Helmke leads poll; prepares for air war

Rusthoven counting on money advantage

HPR Forecast: Paul Helmke is proving himself to be the man to beat after a second poll showed him leading Peter Rusthoven and John Price. But Rusthoven’s apparently sizable money advantage promises to take this primary battle down to the wire.



INDIANAPOLIS - The two sets of polling numbers in the Republican U.S. Senate primary are strikingly similar:

South Bend Tribune/Mason Dixon Poll, December 1997

Helmke	21 percent
Rusthoven	17
Price	11
Undecided	51

Indianapolis Star-News/WTHR/Mason Dixon, March 1998

Helmke	26 percent
Rusthoven	16
Price	9
Undecided	49

Helmke’s campaign was clearly bolstered by this latest Mason Dixon poll. “I’m real encouraged,” said Helmke. “I’ve got more support than the other two combined. I think that’s significant.”

While there was no geographical breakdown in the numbers, most observers believe that Helmke is getting much of his support out of the Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana area even though he doesn’t have the endorsement of many county party chairs. Helmke is also attempting to turn the recent endorsements of mayors in Hammond, Marion and Lafayette and their political organizations to his advantage.

But everyone involved in this race knows that a sustained TV and radio blitz along with direct mail and get-out-the-vote programs will be crucial. “I’m sure they are ahead of me in money,” Helmke

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Bob Lang



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Paul Helmke's campaign manager reacted sharply to the recent E.J. Dionne column that appeared in the Washington Post with a Fort Wayne date-line. It had Helmke praising President Clinton and saying, "I am honored to know this president." Peter Slen of the Helmke campaign said Dionne used the marks out of context. "He quoted Paul's introduction of the president in his role as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors." Slen said Helmke also introduced Jack Kemp and Colin Powell. As for Clinton, Slen said of Helmke's remarks, "He was not going to diss the president. He was not going to dishonor the president. The line right before that

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said of Rusthoven. "But money doesn't win. Who gets the most votes wins."

Rusthoven's campaign acknowledged the deficit. "The election is in May," said Rusthoven's new campaign manager, Ken McKenzie, who was the 1984 Republican nominee against U.S. Rep. Phil Sharp. "If the election was last week, it would have been a lot different.

"Peter lacks name ID, but we've been laying the groundwork over the past year, building party and financial support. To spend money now or to have been spending it on media when it's not close to the election doesn't make sense. We've been waiting to do our media when we're closer to the election. These poll results really aren't unexpected.

"Half the voters are undecided. People are waiting to see who the candidates are. If we communicate to them about who Peter is and why he wants to be their senator, I think most of those will be ours."

Helmke doesn't think all the undecided voters will break in one direction. "Usually the undecideds don't split in funny patterns," said the three-term Fort Wayne mayor as he headed down I-69 to the Washington Township Lincoln Day dinner in Indianapolis later Tuesday after-

noon."

Who can sustain a media buy?

The key question is which campaign will be in the best position to initiate a sustained media buy with a significant advantage over the other candidates.

With the undecideds hovering in the 50 percent range in both polls, there is a certain volatility in this race as opposed to one where one candidate might lead the others in the 30th or 40th percentile.

None of the campaigns would reveal their financial stratas. Neither of the campaigns indicated there was a significant change in the money situation from the FEC year-end reports that showed Rusthoven with about a \$150,000 advantage over Helmke.

Both Rusthoven and Helmke are talking as if they will hit the airwaves within the next two weeks. "We hope to get on in April," Helmke said. "Once we get on, we plan to stay on."

Helmke campaign manager Peter Slen said the media campaign has been designed and is ready to go.

Just add money, right?

"We've got some of that," Slen answered. "I think we'll be on the air shortly."

PLAY of the week

As we reported last week, Gov. Frank O'Bannon has been getting nicked up a bit by various newspaper columnists and editorialists for not doing more to get a tax cut passed during the recent legislative session. But the Indianapolis Star-News/WTHR Poll released last weekend showed O'Bannon with a 57 percent approval rating. That just goes to show that Hoosier folk like O'Bannon personally and they weren't paying attention to all the partisan bombast following the legislature. ♪

Rusthoven can be expected to start a radio campaign "around April 1," according to his campaign manager.

McKenzie said of the money situation, "We're assuming where we are based on the end-of-the-year FEC report. Peter out-raised the other two candidates 2-to-1. We should have a pretty big advantage. Peter needs that advantage."

As for Rusthoven's fund-raising, McKenzie said, "It's picking up pretty well. We've still got a ways to go. But I see how we're going to get there. You have to approach them (donors) and get the candidate in front of them. I suspect we are going to have a big advantage. If we meet our goals and our plans, we'll have enough."

Defining themselves

When Helmke and Rusthoven hit the airwaves, they will do so in an attempt to define themselves. Helmke will use the basic theme of "local, limited government with leadership" as well as the fact that he is the best candidate to go up against Evan Bayh.

Helmke sums up his political career by pointing out he defeated a two-term mayor who outspent him by a \$150,000 margin, and then went on to lower crime and property tax rates.

Rusthoven will obviously play up his ties

to the Reagan White House. He will use former Secretary of Education Bill Bennett to promote his campaign. Neither campaign is expected to run negative advertisements against the other.

About John Price

John Price, who some (including HPR) felt might be on a roll if the vacuum continued can find both good and bad news. His numbers were static in both polls and he won't have much money for sustained media buys. Price, instead, will rely on working the religious right. But some of that support appears to be dampening. Former Christian Coalition director Ralph Reed was in Indianapolis on Tuesday, but did not do anything with the Price campaign. And the Indiana Christian Coalition circulated a column by HPR Publisher Brian Howey quoting the CC's Jim Quinn, who suggested that Bayh's election was almost a foregone conclusion.

If either Rusthoven or Helmke can sustain significant media buys in a timely manner to bolster their campaigns, then the vacuum Price had to have for success will disappear, dooming his campaign.

The bottom line in this primary race is watch the media campaigns of Rusthoven and Helmke. The candidate who can sustain consistent presence will probably win. ♪

HPR Memo To... Dick Lugar

HPR's first subscriber has legislated the destruction of Soviet nukes, revolutionized agriculture with his Freedom to Farm Act, bailed out Chrysler Corp, and now could completely change the tobacco industry with his proposed buy-out. Two years ago you said you'd run for president "if I am famous enough." The key question is, why aren't you more famous?

Brian A. Howey ♪

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was 'While we don't agree politically....'"

Gov. Frank O'Bannon reaped more great press by working on the perfect photo-op - a Habitat for Humanity project in Bloomington.

O'Bannon went to Northwest Indiana last week to meet with officials in the wake of the Blizzard of '98. "The response was heroic up here," said O'Bannon (Lucio Guerrero, Gary Post-Tribune). "But the weakest thing was communication. That is something we are going to have to fix." The biggest state problem coming from the storm was that it knocked out communications towers and prevented local government agencies from communicating with each other and the state.

Gov. O'Bannon was in Fort Wayne visiting a child-care center and touted a new law intended to protect children from criminals who target them (Julia Brunts, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). O'Bannon told the children that the expansion of Zachary's Law will provide them with a "safe environment all the time."

Finally, Gov. O'Bannon was in St. Louis rooting on Purdue and Valparaiso in the NCAA tournament. Any wonder why the governor is at 57 percent

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**Primary
Toss-Ups**

1st - Lawson v. Katic

22nd - Ruppel v. Tiede, Hauptert

39th - Irsay v. Torr

60th - Bales v. Ellington

**General
Toss-Ups**

34th - Vanleer v. Adams

46th - Tincher v. Lohr

53rd - Cherry or Higgins v. Wolf

54th - Saunders v. Hamilton

56th - Bodiker v. Paust or Dickson

97th - Mahern v. Schultz

Open Seats

- 1st - Tabaczynski
- 9th - Alevizos
- 10th - Wilson
- 37th - Webber
- 49th - Warner
- 50th - Stephan
- 53rd - Gulling
- 73rd - Heeke

1998 House Racing Form

Ralph Reed, the "Bloody 9th" and El Nino's coattails

A couple of major developments on some Congressional races: 9th CD Democrats may be trying to help Michael Bailey defeat Jean Leising in the GOP primary.

And down in the Bloody 8th, how about the prospect of El Nino's coattails?

Hoosiers also had former Christian Coalition director Ralph Reed in town to endorse Gary Hofmeister in the 10th CD, although he declined to take any swipes at Virginia Blankenbaker.

In our status report, **Toss-Up** means the race is within a statistical margin of error or we're on to something; **Leans** is just outside the margin of error and up to 9 percent; **Likely** is 10 to 15 points; and **Solid** means watch out for a landslide.

HORSE RACE

Indiana Congressional Races

Congressional District 8: R Primary: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **D Primary:** Evansville Councilwoman Gail Riecken. **Geography:** Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Hostettler v. Riecken. **1994 results:** Hostettler 93,529, McCloskey 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Forecast:** Hostettler announces the House Modernization Transition Committee won't close the Evansville National Weather Service office until at least September. Tornadoes could become a hot political issue in the 8th CD, since Al Gore promised the district in a 1994 campaign swing for Frank McCloskey that Evansville would get a new Doppler radar station. Since then, the NWS has announced it will close the office and Hostettler has been battling to keep it open. "I urge you to put off consideration of closure of the Evansville office to give the liaison officer, the spotter network and AWIPS a chance to work during a severe weather season," Hostettler wrote. An active spring and summer of tornadoes - particularly if a tornado devastates a town like one did Petersburg earlier this decade - could hurt the Democrats. There might be a Hoosier political first brewing in the clouds: El Nino's coattails. **Status:** Toss-Up.

Congressional District 9: R Primary: Jean Leising, Michael Bailey, Cecil Copley. **D Primary:** Baron Hill, Fred Holt. **Geography:** New Albany, Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Leising v. Hill. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459, Leising 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton 128,885, Leising 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Forecast:** District Democrats have begun an offensive against Leising, circulating a memo of accusations from an "Anonymous Republican Leader." HPR received the "Anonymous" memo a month ago. It claims that Leising has paid more than \$17,000 in campaign funds to family members. Ninth CD Democratic chairman Mike Jones faxed out a letter from the FEC's Wendy Couchoud, reports analyst, dated Feb. 17 in which Couchoud writes, "A written response or an amendment to your original reports correcting the above problems should be filed ... within 15 days." Writes Jones, "Why hasn't she responded? What has she got to hide? The whole point of filing campaign finance reports is to lay out precisely where money is being raised and spent." Clearly, Democrats are willing to do what it takes to ensure that Michael Bailey defeats Leising. Washington sources tell HPR that Leising was telling them that her fund-raising was flagging because she wanted to give her donor base a break. **Status:** Likely D.

Congressional District 10: R Primary: Virginia Blankenbaker, Gary Hofmeister, Marvin Scott. **D Primary:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Suzanne Fischman. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **HPR General Forecast:** Blankenbaker v. Carson. **1994 results:** Jacobs (D) 58,573, Scott 50,998. **1996 Results:** Carson 90,869, Blankenbaker 69,248, St. Angelo (L) 3,505. **1998 Forecast:** Hofmeister brings in former Christian Coalition director Ralph Reed, who endorses his candidacy. That should help take the wind out of Marvin Scott's sails. Reed calls Hofmeister's primary race "one of our top priorities" and said Hofmeister "has the message, the manpower and the money." Whether it will allow Hofmeister to make up ground on Virginia Blankenbaker remains to be seen. **Status:** Leans D.

By Brian A. Howey

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* -

If Republicans control the Indiana House of Representatives next year, property taxes may not be the only taxes cut. Former House Speaker Paul Mannweiler said that the House Republican Caucus will consider cuts that would stimulate the economy by gradually rolling back taxes, including inheritance and inventory taxes. "I think we'd certainly be open to other proposals," Mannweiler said. "We started this session taking welfare reform off the property taxes. We thought that was a little more doable, and then when the governor sort of proclaimed that there wouldn't be any permanent cuts - he only wanted temporary cuts for a year or two - I guess we didn't know how possible that was going to be." Mannweiler said since candidates pledged to cut property taxes when they ran for the legislature in 1996, nothing has happened. 🐉

Larry Shores, *Muncie Star Press* - If you're a person who likes to speak your piece at public meetings, it will be harder to SLAPP you for doing so in the future. That's because the Indiana Legislature took some of the starch out of SLAPP, which stands for Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. These suits have been used as harassment tactics to silence critics of government or its projects. They seek monetary damage from citizens whose financial resources are limited, but who want to fight city hall anyway. So what does it do, this bill to give the little guy some leverage? Basically it requires judges to speed up the disposition of SLAPP suits. Also, a person who wins on a motion to dismiss is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs. The "winner take all" feature is welcome here. I've always respected judges who, when they can, order plaintiffs in "nuisance" suits to ante up money for the defendant when the latter is in the right. If more courts did this, there might be fewer suits whose only intention is to harass. 🐉

Evan Davis, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* -

And now for a spin completely different - the sex scandals are good for America. They're ugly and they're embarrassing, but they're a valuable growth experience. Women, men and the nation's political maturity should come out better for having endured all of this. Women may think they are losers. Clarence Thomas got his seat on the Supreme Court. Gene McKinney beat the sexual harassment raps. Bill Clinton floats above the fray. But the consistent message of one scandal after another has had its impact, as evidenced in public discussion and workplace seminars. It is wrong to use power over someone to pressure him or her for sex. And there are risks for those too obtuse to understand. Clinton's character flaws help bring the presidency back to earth. The president of the United States is another flawed human being, albeit a powerful one. Those who emphasize that Clinton doesn't set the moral example of a George Washington overlook the presidencies of numerous flawed characters - corrupt, racist, megalomaniacal, and just plain dumb. A president is many things, but not the personal moral compass of the American people. We wish our presidents would live righteously, but we carry on when they don't. 🐉

Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star* - (State Treasurer Joyce) Brinkman, after months in water as hot as the cup of tea she holds as she greets reporters, was finally announcing she would not run again. Even though she still has ambitions, even though she still has her supporters, even though she wants to run for governor or Congress, Brinkman's career is in pieces. "I am, politically, a very viable person," she told reporters. Maybe. Maybe sometime when nobody remembers how she ricocheted from one disastrous move to the next, so convinced she was right and so alone in that conviction. 🐉

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approval in the polls?

Ralph Reed, formerly of the Christian Coalition, is now a partner in Atlanta-based Century Strategies. It is a company with the goal of electing 100 federal officeholders who are pro-life, pro-family and pro-free enterprise. One of those potential 100 is Gary Hofmeister's 10th CD run in Indianapolis. Reed's firm is also working on 21 other races this year. "We will have a dramatic impact as any firm has on the direction of American politics," Reed declared at a Statehouse press conference. "Gary Hofmeister is a friend; a man of enormous integrity and common sense values."

As for President Clinton's troubles, Reed complained that his 5-year-old son was asking him questions like, "Was Clinton lying when he said he hadn't had sex with that girl." Reed added that Americans would be "hungering" for a moral president in 2000.

The Indiana Christian Coalition is battling to keep the Dr. James Dobson TV show on WFIE. Dobson announced on his show that there was a coordinated effort in Evansville to have the show removed from WFIE's Newswatch broadcast. The CC described Dobson as "one of

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the most prominent pro-life leaders in the world, and his outspoken support for protecting human life is uncompromised. To lose Dr. Dobson's locally-aired commentary would be a tragedy."

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats and State Sen. David Long have signed on to a legislative effort by U.S. Rep. Mark Souder to use block grant money for homeless shelters and other anti-poverty programs. "Bricks and mortar projects aren't important," said Coats (Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Coats said he would rather see money steered "into people and people programs." Souder's bill would allow states to use up to 20 percent of federal block grant money to pay for tax credits. The credit would allow taxpayers to deduct part of the money they donate to charities on their tax returns. Indiana gets \$80 million annually in the block grant program. Long introduced legislation in the Indiana Senate last session, but it died in committee. He will revive that legislation in 1999.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar called for a special supplemental nutrition program in the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. "The WIC program is a success,"

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Are conservatives eating their own?

Attacks from the Right are roiling Republicans, Souder says

By Mark Schoeff Jr.
Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - A GOP loss in a House special election this month in California may cause U.S. Rep. Mark Souder to ask a pointed question about groups advocating conservative causes: With friends like these, who needs enemies?

Republican hopes for a victory in the California race came crashing to the ground when Democrat Lois Capps rolled over Republican Tom Bordonaro, winning with 53 percent of the vote. Souder said the GOP candidate lost because moderates abandoned him, and because special interest groups spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to oppose him on a variety of issues, such as term limits.

The irony for Souder, and other Republicans, is that term limits is generally thought to be a Republican issue. In California, though, the term limit "issue advocacy" effort exerted enormous influence on the campaign agenda and helped bring down Bordonaro, said Souder. The organization Americans for Limited Terms ran approximately \$300,000 of advertising criticizing Bordonaro for refusing to sign a pledge to limit himself to six years in Congress. Capps signed the pledge.

Souder targeted in 4th CD

Souder is feeling the heat himself from another group that supports a conservative cause, National Right to Work. The group has begun a mail campaign in the 4th CD accusing Souder of not following through on a pledge to support legislation to repeal laws requiring workers to join unions. Souder said he supports right-to-work issues, but the particular bill the group is advocating is not viable at this time. He does support a bill currently that would prevent union dues from being used for political activity without the written consent of a worker.

"So many of our people are under attack," Souder said of the House GOP caucus.

"The funny thing is, when you walk into Cloak Room, people are complaining about attacks from the right."

Not a partisan issue

The interest groups don't see their issues in a partisan light. They back any candidate who agrees with them. "We wouldn't consider term limits a conservative issue," said Adam Bromberg, communications director for U.S. Term Limits. "In the past, most Republicans have supported the issue. We put more focus on personal term limits."

A spokesman for National Right to Work also said his group avoids the partisan perspective. "We don't look at someone in the blanket sense as a friend or an enemy," said Stan Greer, public affairs director. "If (Souder) is not going to keep his pledge, then he's not our ally."

The organization sent a 1,900-piece mailing into Indiana's 4th CD in January that criticizes Souder for not co-sponsoring the bill it's advocating. It is following up that mailing with four missives to 250 people in the district. The group claims 2 million members nationwide.

Special interest groups may be passionate, but not necessarily effective, Souder says. U.S. Term Limits undermines its issue by adhering fiercely to the six-year limit. Souder says that six years in the House would restrict a member's ability to attain a leadership position and would throw the House out of sync with the Senate, if that body would adopt a two-term limit, or 12 years.

The coin of the realm in a legislature is compromise. If a 12-year limit is possible, that's better than failing to obtain any limit, Souder said. The special interest groups are more dogmatic. They want to prove a point--and raise money.



"They want to show they can tip a close race," Souder said. "Each organization wants to figure out how to perpetuate itself. It's tough to separate the ideological (motivation) from fund-raising. If your group is not unique, you're not going to raise money."

That financial objective sometimes manifests itself in the legislation the groups push. Souder says he won't sign onto a bill that exists only for fund-raising purposes.

Greer denies that his organization focuses on dollars more than its cause. "Our business is to advance our issue," he said. "If our goal were just to raise as much money as possible, it wouldn't be in our best interest to criticize GOP politicians."

Special interest concern grows

The influence of special interest spending is a growing concern. By avoiding language that explicitly calls for the election or defeat of a candidate, groups can spend as much money as they want buy advertising to promote their cause. They are not controlled by campaign spending laws. Many of the ads highlight candidates' positions, though, and make it clear which of the people running support the organization's point of view.

The ads should be subject to more scrutiny and regulation, Souder said. "If it looks like it, acts like it, and talks like it, then it's a campaign ad."

The spending on such advertising, which totaled about \$1 million in the California special election, can skew the campaign agenda and move it away from the areas that are of concern to the candidates and the district, Souder said.

Undermining restrictions

Issue advocacy "is undermining restrictions that have been set up to reduce the influence of money on elections," said Eric Lorenzini, state issues coordinator for Common Cause, a public policy watchdog group. The unregulated money poured into a race by an interest group "has the potential to take over a

campaign and become the dominate part of the campaign debate."

Under one campaign finance reform bill, special interest group spending within 60 days of an election would be subject to the limits, prohibitions and disclosures required by federal law. A group like U.S. Term Limits would have to form a political action committee in order to raise money for its efforts. The committee would operate under the same limits on individual contributions that candidates have to follow when they raise money.

Bromberg, of the term limits organization, disputes the idea that his group is exerting undue influence on the election process. It's simply exercising its first amendment privilege. "The candidates don't own the agenda in a campaign," he said. "The people do. We have a right to ask questions that (candidates) don't want to talk about. If people don't care about term limits, then the ads shouldn't have an impact."

Moderates walk in California

Special interest spending, however, wasn't the only problem Bordonaro faced in California, according to Souder. He also was hurt by moderate Republicans who supported the Democratic candidate.

"If the moderates favor the Democrats over conservatives, we'll have a brawl in our party," Souder said.

Conservatives in politically diverse districts also must be careful about which issues they put at the top of their agenda. They have to accept the fact that promoting divisive issues may drive the moderates away.

"In a swing district, it's not helpful to make abortion a big issue, even for those who are ardently pro-life, as I am," Souder said. "I do not lead with it."

Political observers concluded that Bordonaro may have been hurt by pro-life advertising sponsored by the Christian Coalition, Coalition for Working Families and Focus on the Family. ♀

Schoeff is HPR's Washington correspondent

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Lugar said. "Of particular note is the reduction in the number of low birth weight babies who otherwise would have required expensive neonatal care - care that likely would have been at government expense."

U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer appealed to the National Security Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee to approve \$131.2 million for the Hummer vehicle program for 1999 (South Bend Tribune). The Hummers are built in Mishawaka.

Dan Quayle campaigned in New Hampshire on St. Patrick's Day with former Gov. John Sununu.

Greenwood businessman and Indy 500 race team owner Jonathon Byrd will have a "Republican National Convention, 2000 Indianapolis" logo on his race cars. "I'm proud and excited to be able to help the city in this way," said Byrd.

A Taiwanese religious cult believes a sacred UFO will land in Gary to pickup nuclear war survivors prior to the second coming of Christ (Rick Miller, Gary Post-Tribune). The newspaper reported that cult leader Hon-Ming Chen visited Gary along with 30 adults and children to perform a water purification ritual in the frigid waters of Lake Michigan, "throwing

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fruit and rice into the waters."

Gov. O'Bannon has appointed a study commission on the impact of legalized gambling in Indiana. AG Jeff Modisett will chair the commission. Included on the commission are Sens. Luke Kenley of Noblesville, and Bill Alexa of Va'paraiso, Reps Earl Harris of East Chicago and Vaneta Becker of Evansville. Others are Cliff Copland of the Mental Health Center in Lawrenceburg; former Indiana Gaming Commission chairman Alan Klineman; Kevin Brinegar of the Indiana Chamber; and Tom Wetterer, a former horse racing commissioner.

Clinton doesn't concern Julia

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Julia Carson is following a strategy of circumspection similar to her colleagues when it comes to the sex scandals swirling around President Clinton.

She is not analyzing how the president's problems may impact her re-election campaign this fall.

Her only comment, which she made through spokesman Steven Cook: "Who knows?"

Most polls indicate that the scandals swirling around the White House are not diminishing Clinton's job approval ratings, although one GOP poll shows that his personal approval is falling. On Tuesday, a CNN/USA Today poll had Clinton's approve/disapprove rating at 66/28 percent. In Indiana, an *Indianapolis Star* poll had 42 percent of Hoosiers giving the president an excellent or good rating, compared to 58 percent fair to poor. In nearby Wisconsin, Clinton's approval rating was at an all time high.

In general, Americans appear to be sanguine about the salacious allegations emanating from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. In previous statements, Carson has noted this dynamic.

Constituents are telling Carson that

"they're tired of hearing about this(scandals) and want to move on to the important business of the country," Cook said, quoting his boss.

Republican female members of Congress are putting pressure on their female counter-

CONGRESS WATCH

parts across the aisle to speak out against the president on Willey's allegations.

The GOP women claim that the Democrats are being inconsistent in their approach to this volatile issue. They cited strident Democratic opposition to Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court nomination in 1991 when Anita Hill accused him of sexual harassment and Democratic efforts to oust former Sen. Bob Packwood after former female staffers said the senator made unwanted sexual advances.

One of Packwood's fiercest opponents, Sen. Barbara Boxer of California, is not making any comment on Clinton's troubles, according to *The Hill*, a Capitol newspaper.

- Mark Schoeff reporting from Washington.



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