

# THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I think it is safe to say that I will not be writing any more letters of reference to criminal cases...”

- Muncie Mayor Dan Canan, to the Star Press, after he retracted a letter of reference for a convicted drug dealer with more than 30 arrests and 8 felony convictions

## O’Bannon slipping in Marion County

A place where he won by 19,000 votes

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in *Indianapolis*

In the first indication of how much of a hit Gov. Frank O’Bannon has taken since the end of the 111th Indiana General Assembly, a NUVO-TeleResearch Poll in Marion County reveals that his favorable/unfavorable rating stands at 52/41 percent.

That’s a significant decline from late summer 1998 when Democratic pollsters at the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association convention at French Lick had pegged his approval rating in the 70th percentile.

For sheer irony, the man O’Bannon defeated in 1996 - Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith - had a 69/25 percent fav/unfav. Those numbers were virtually the same in a February TeleResearch survey.

The same poll conducted May 22-23 with 330 likely registered voters (+/- 5 percent) had Indianapolis mayoral candidates Sue Anne Gilroy and Bart Peterson tied at 36 percent, with Libertarian Andrew Horning coming in at 4 percent. That marked a decline in Gilroy’s numbers from 47-30 percent in a late March *Indianapolis Star*/WTHR poll, and down from 43-19 percent in a February TeleResearch Poll.

While a Republican loss in the Indianapolis mayoral race would be a devastating event for the party, the GOP could take solace from the idea that O’Bannon doesn’t appear to be as invincible as he was at the beginning of the year.

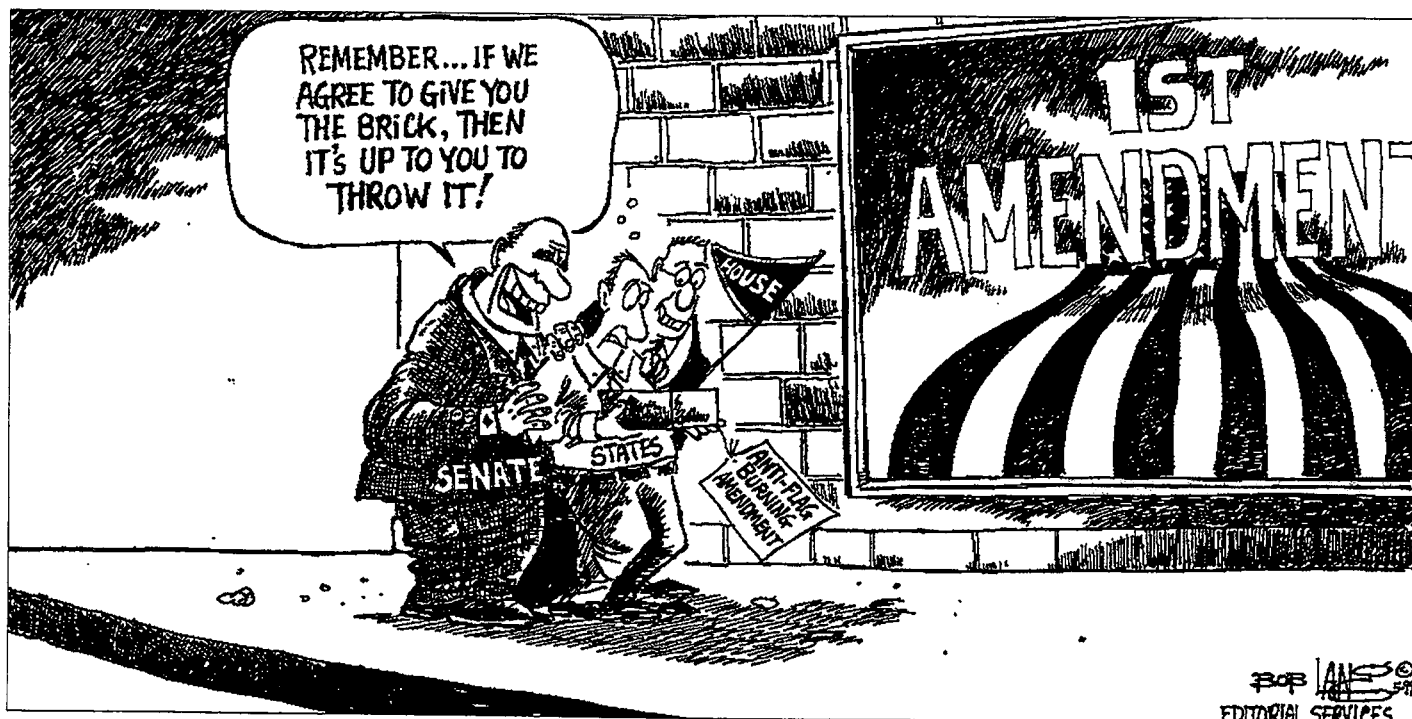
Beyond the polls and the public displays of politics lies an interesting chess game between O’Bannon and Goldsmith which could have a huge impact in the Gilroy-

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# TICKER T A P E

A special prosecutor has declined to press child molestation charges against Marion County Republican Chairman John Sweezy following allegations by a 9-year-old female relative. .

Agronomists are calling the May planting season in Indiana almost perfect. Corn planting in northern and central Indiana was 98 percent complete - nearing the record of 99 percent in 1988, the last major drought year in the state (Lafayette Journal & Courier). Soybean planting is one day behind the 1987 record. "I'd say we're 10 days to two weeks ahead of schedule," said Rick Roach of Harner Roach and Arthur Farms near Monticello.

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## Numbers, from page 1

Peterson mayoral race. Goldsmith is faced with a \$33 million balloon payment on Circle Centre Mall financing due to the Indiana Public Depository Fund on Feb. 1, 2000 - a month after Goldsmith's successor takes office. That loan came from the state's Rainy Day Fund in 1988 when Indianapolis was one of 10 cities that borrowed money from the fund.

Sources tell HPR that Goldsmith pressed O'Bannon to call the Indiana legislature back into session so the loan could be renegotiated, along with other business that included reinstatement of tax credits for high tech research and development, and banking and insurance laws that would keep American United Life and several banks from rechartering or moving to other states - things O'Bannon wanted to accomplish in overtime.

Legislative leaders from both parties balked at a special session and O'Bannon did not pull the trigger. That leaves Goldsmith with a \$36 million bank loan he directed the city to take out last year to cover the Circle Centre Mall loan due this August, according to a story in the *Indianapolis Star*.

With Gilroy already declaring Indianapolis as the "best run city in America," she now faces reports from the Indiana State Board of Accounts audit headed to the attorney general's office sometime this summer, and the unknown long-term debt status involving the United Airlines Maintenance facility and Goldsmith's Building Better Neighborhoods program.

It doesn't take a brain surgeon to imagine O'Bannon and the Democrats coming to a conclusion that restructuring the Circle Centre Mall loans during the legislature's reorganization day after the November city elections will keep the heat on Goldsmith and Gilroy and perhaps help pave the way for a Peterson victory.

The risk for O'Bannon in that scenario is that his support in Marion County has significantly eroded from 1996 when he won the county by an astounding 19,000-vote plurality.

That erosion of support in the state's leading GOP stronghold is most likely due to controversies surrounding Indiana State Police pay, the defeat of full-day kindergarten, and the potential loss of American United Life. But another element to that may be Marion County

Republicans leaning toward returning to their normal base, even though outward migration to the eight collar counties will eventually make Indianapolis more of a two-party city.

Republican voters may also be

buoyed by the looming entry of U.S. Rep. David McIntosh into the gubernatorial race later this month. McIntosh has enjoyed wide media exposure in the Indianapolis market from his 1994 through 1998 2nd CD campaigns. ❖

## THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



June 1, 1999

**To:** Jim Shella, WISH-TV; Dr. Brian Vargus, Indiana University  
**From:** Brian Howey, NUVO Newsweekly; Jeff Lewis, TeleResearch  
**Re:** The Poll Challenge

Jim, it has come to our attention that in the May 28 edition of *Indiana Week in Review*, you made comments that not only attacked the veracity of polling conducted by TeleResearch in the current Indianapolis mayoral race, but the credibility of *NUVO Newsweekly* as a viable news source as well.

You've been in the business long enough to know that talk is cheap, and since you made those assertions it seems appropriate for a retrospective comparison of the work we do at TeleResearch, *NUVO* and *The Howey Political Report* and the work you and Dr. Vargus do for WISH-TV and *Indiana Week in Review*.

It is our recollection that in the 10th CD race between Rep. Carson and Gary Hofmeister, a TeleResearch poll conducted two weeks before the election had Carson leading with a 55-37 percent margin. That data allowed HPR to accurately forecast victory for Carson (as well as Rep. Hostettler in the 8th CD) in our Oct. 22, 1998, edition. It is also our recollection that on the night before the general election, you and Dr. Vargus were telling WISH viewers that the 10th CD was a dead heat. As we now know, Carson won by a 58-39 percent margin. In 1996, TeleResearch said Frank O'Bannon was leading in Marion County in his gubernatorial race against Mayor Goldsmith. And HPR - based on that data and our own analysis of Goldsmith's expenditure of \$2 million in the Chicago media market - was explaining to its readers that the governor's race was ripe for an upset. We're not sure what WISH was telling its viewers just before that election.

So let's dust off the numbers and dub the tapes and see where the accurate forecasts really were. Once the data is compiled, we'll be more than happy to report the contrasts in *NUVO*, HPR and any other interested media. Perhaps you would also be willing to share the information with your viewers on WISH and *Indiana Week in Review*. We'll have our comprehensive information for the Poll Challenge compiled by June 8 and hope that you and Dr. Vargus will do the same. ❖

## TICKER T A P E

Attorney General Jeff Modisett and Curt Smith of the Hudson Institute are headed to Indonesia as part of an international team of election observers.

President Clinton's poll numbers have dropped considerably, due in large part to his policies involving Kosovo. "The public is frustrated by a lack of progress and also by these accidents," said Pew's Andrew Kohut. His latest job approval rating has dipped to 53 percent, according to a Pew Research survey. Said analyst Stephen Hess of the Brookings Institute, "53 percent midway through your seventh year is pretty darn good."

Dr. Billy Graham told an Indianapolis press conference that it was a "mistake to take religion out of schools" and said school violence has to "be met with prayer." Graham will preach at the RCA Dome June 3-6. He will be joined by former Sen. Dan Coats on Saturday. NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon will appear with Graham on Friday.

Gary City Council members have passed increased expense accounts for themselves by between 24 and 33 percent (Gary Post-Tribune). Council members, three of whom were defeated for re-election last month, cited an increase in

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inflation as the reason. But the Post-Tribune pointed out that the rate of inflation for 1998 was 1.6 percent and only 2.3 percent in 1997.

Editorial reaction by many Hoosier newspapers to the Cox Report on Chinese attainment of U.S. nuclear technology has been mild. The Evansville Courier & Press summed it up like this: "It shows Chinese have acquired sophisticated technology. Our View: United States still has considerable edge." The editorial continued, "The outrage over this theft should not obscure the fact that the only serious nuclear threat to the United States remains Russia, with its disintegrating military and huge stocks of weapons."

Legislative summer study committees will look into school violence, ozone pollution, privatizing of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, land-based casinos and cable TV (Mike Chambers, Evansville Courier & Press). The most controversial issue is to allow dockside gambling at riverboard casino sites, which has been proposed by State Sen. Earline Rogers, D-Gary, in response to gambling initiatives in Illinois and Kentucky. Illinois Gov. George Ryan has endorsed a plan to allow a riverboat on Lake Michigan at Chicago. House Speaker John Gregg has

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## Hoosiers debate guns

Senate ups the political stakes for House members; parents feel heat

By **MARK SCHOEFF Jr.** in Washington  
**BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

After a tumultuous debate on gun control in the Senate in May, Hoosier members of the House of Representatives are keeping their powder dry on the issue.

On May 20, one month after two students at a Littleton, Colo., school shot and killed 13 people, the Senate approved a juvenile crime measure that would place modest restrictions on gun sales and require child-safety trigger locks. After watching the Senate GOP stumble and be humbled during the gun debate, House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert last week said the House GOP leadership would support "common-sense legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of unsupervised children." Hastert also said the party would back gun-show background checks.

The House GOP, which clings to a five-vote majority, has been roiled by challenges to leadership positions. It's not clear whether the caucus will line up behind their leaders on this issue, which will be taken up next week after the body returns from its Memorial Day recess.

Rep. David McIntosh (R-CD 2) is the leader of the Conservative Action Team, an influential group of about 50 House members. CAT has consistently been vocal and assertive in trying to ensure that the GOP caucus toes the conservative line. It will be active on guns, too.

"In general, the Conservative Action Team will be heading the efforts to defeat liberal gun-control amendments on the grounds that they would have made no difference in any of the school shootings," McIntosh told HPR. "In addition, we're backing up the Family Caucus' efforts, led by (Rep.) John Hostettler (R-CD 8) to put on the agenda items that we think would make a real difference in the problems in the high schools, ranging from character

agendas in the schools to real efforts to enforce laws that are on the books."

McIntosh's fellow conservative, Rep. Mark Souder (R-CD 4), has not made a decision on gun-control legislation nor is he able to project how the GOP caucus may vote, according to spokeswoman Angela Flood. At this point, he seems to be favoring gun-show checks.

"If we do background checks at guns bought in other venues, why not do it at gun shows?" Flood said in describing her boss' thinking. She added, however, that he believes that people calling for restrictions must explain how they will contribute to improving safety.

### Democrats unclear

On the Democratic side, the picture isn't much clearer. Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-CD 1) "wants to take a look at what's in each measure" before deciding whether to support the House gun bills, said spokesman Chip Lewis. Visclosky backed the Brady Bill and the assault-weapons ban five years ago.

Rep. Baron Hill (D-CD 9) has not taken a position on the issue, said spokeswoman Angela Belden. Gun measures may prove to be tough votes for the freshman, who represents a largely rural district mostly devoid of suburbia, where the gun debate resonates.

"There's always been a significant and vocal minority, including Democrats, who have not been favorably inclined to support candidates who have been in favor of gun control," in CDs 8 and 9, said Chris Sautter, a Washington Democratic consultant who has worked on a number of southern Indiana campaigns.

GOP Sen. Dick Lugar may have helped Hill, said Sautter. Lugar was one of the few Republicans to emerge from the Senate debate unscathed. He was among six GOP senators who voted in

favor of the gun-show background checks the first time it came up. Others in their party quickly joined them after being pummeled following the first vote. Lugar called the gun measures "common sense." He has maintained a consistent gun position going back to his days as mayor of Indianapolis, when he sought gun curbs to help police fight violent crime.

"In Indiana, Lugar has always provided cover for House members in both parties when he strays from the party line," said Sautter. "(Potential Hill challenger Kevin Shaw) Kellems would be hard pressed to attack Hill for voting the same way as Lugar on gun-safety issues."

The key for Democrats is to keep the debate focused on school safety and parental supervision of youngsters. If the topic is cast as a "big government" effort, Democrats could pay a price, said Sautter. Guns are likely to cast a shadow over the electorate through next year. Suburban Littleton represents the kind of area where many independent and "highly intense" voters live or want to live. "It is the cultural issue for the next election," said John Zogby, president of the independent polling firm Zogby International.

"Littleton is a word like Watergate or Kent State. It is an umbrella term that speaks to America's aspirations and fears."

But volatility is one constant in politics. "It's difficult to predict how an issue will play in a year and a half," said Marshall Wittmann, director of congressional relations at the conservative Heritage Foundation. "After all, impeachment has already been forgotten."

### 'Black Scare' in Indiana

While the House has been roiled in the gun control debate, Hoosier schools in the wake of Littleton have experienced what people are beginning to call the "Black Scare."

Indiana newspapers have been peppered with news accounts of bomb threats, rumor mills that send scores of parents headed to schools, arrests of

teenagers for threatening violence. A bomb-threat e-mailed to Kesling Middle School in LaPorte on May 26 resulted in a lockdown and increased police security. Trion Elementary School in Shelby County had to deal with rumors of poisoned food in the cafeteria. Bomb threats closed Highland, Evansville Bosse and Hammond Morton high schools. Another was received at an Evansville elementary school. It prompted a 16-year-old South Bend student to tell the *Tribune*, "The entire media world, the lawmakers, the parents - they're absolutely afraid of us and they're afraid for their kids." He compared it to the "Red scare" of earlier decades.

### 'It's going to get worse'

Public officials were hardly offering words of comfort. U.S. Attorney Jon DeGuilio said last Friday that school violence "is only going to get worse" (Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*). DeGuilio had to deal with it personally since his daughter is a sophomore at Highland High School. "It came home to me in a very personal way," said DeGuilio. "You can imagine what a difficult situation that puts you in as a parent. We chose to send our daughter to school on Tuesday. We shouldn't have to live that way."

Grant County Sheriff Oatess Archey told the Indiana Black Expo in Muncie that parents are going to have to provide more guidance from a culture where they are "hardened to death" to violence on TV and in the movies (Larry Lough, *Muncie Star Press*).

"It's so important that we become role models," Archey said. "We are role models, whether we want to be or not. Children are not little adults. That's why God made parents. We're living in dangerous times. We're going to have to do something quickly or we're going to lose the war." For Indiana's members of Congress, the danger is political consequences. For Hoosier parents, the stakes are quite a bit higher. ❖

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already said he will oppose the plan and Gov. Frank O'Bannon is on record as saying there will be no gambling expansion while he is in office. Gregg said that "in the three sessions I have been speaker I have not allowed any expansion of gambling in Indiana. It's obvious the country wants to have gambling everywhere. I guess we're an out-of-step dinosaur."

Joe Follick of Thomson Indiana reports that Indiana legislators have diverted \$1 million from the "beleaguered" BMV "for their own political parties." In January, BMV Commissioner Gary Gibson proposed closing a number of smaller branches and trimming the \$9 million annual losses BMV posts. Follick reported, "Instead of complimenting the agency on its cost-cutting effort, legislators - fearful of constituent backlash when a convenient, if inefficient, branch in their district is closed - denounced Gibson's plan and killed it within a week. But legislators failed to mention one way to immediately save the agency money: ending the peculiar system that brings Democrats and Republicans more than \$1 million per year from the sales of personalized, vanity license plates." Of the extra \$40 the plates cost, \$7 goes to highway funding, \$3 goes to BMV operating costs, and

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\$30 is split between the Republicans and Democrats.

Former 8th CD congressman Joel Deckard has announced he will run for the U.S. Senate in Florida on the Reform Party ticket. Deckard served two terms as a Republican until he was defeated in 1982 by Democrat Frank McCloskey after he was ticketed for drunk driving two weeks prior to the election. Deckard now lives in Jacksonville and told the Evansville Courier & Press that he had disclosed the drunk driving incident. "They said that's not a problem. It was 17 years ago. That one issue doesn't define me."

The World Trade Center of Indiana will be headquartered at the Hudson Institute. The WTCI development office will be directed by Indianapolis attorney Greg Zoeller. "The development office at Hudson is the first step in opening the World Trade Center in Indiana," Zoeller said.

Indianapolis will host the Republican National Committee's annual meeting of state chairmen May 11-13, 2000.

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler announced a \$400,000 planning grant for I-69 and an additional \$10 million for the entire highway corridor

# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star*** - U.S. Rep. David McIntosh will decide soon whether to pass up an almost sure shot at re-election to a fourth term in Congress for a long-shot gamble that he can beat incumbent Gov. Frank O'Bannon in 2000. He's been thinking - and thinking and thinking - about this for months. Indiana GOP Chairman Mike McDaniel is enthused, seeing the possibility of a GOP sweep in 2000. A strong presidential candidate joining Republican U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar on Indiana's ballot could deliver the advantage a competitor like McIntosh needs to defeat even a popular incumbent like O'Bannon. ❖

**David De Camp & Leslie Stedman, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*** - Dan Quayle was on Capitol Hill last week to brainstorm with Indiana's GOP House members. A main topic: How to scare up more congressional endorsements for his stuck-in-second-tier presidential campaign. Short answers: Use your time on something with better odds. Quayle has the public backing of six of the seven Hoosier GOP members of Congress. Quayle also has been endorsed by Michigan Sen. Spence Abraham. That's at least seven out of the 277 congressional Republicans. George W. Bush, the big kahuna in all aspects of the GOP presidential contest, has sewed up 223 congressional endorsements. And he's not even officially running. The rest of the GOP contenders have no more congressional backing than Quayle, and some have none. ❖

**Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union*** - Another school shooting. Another round of gun laws. That's the way things seem to be playing out these days. Lots of people are calling for a bunch of new laws to

restrict guns in one way or another. And the U.S. Senate obliged them this week with some new gun laws. But there are tons of laws already on the books. All in all there are some 20,000 gun laws on the books. With that many laws, one would think there would be lots of convictions. Not so. In fact, the Clinton administration's track record when it comes to federal gun law convictions isn't that great. It's down from the previous administration. But you know, I really don't think it would matter because gun laws, for the most part, don't work. ❖

**Mike Dooley, *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel*** - This month's primary is now just a memory, but some members of Mayor Paul Helmke's administration still chuckle when they recall one incident that occurred the day before the election. According to them, a representative of Republican mayoral candidate Joe Squadrito's campaign paid the mayor a visit in his ninth-floor office to congratulate Helmke on the race his public works director, Linda Buskirk, ran against Squadrito. Of course, the eminency added, Joe will be the hands down winner and, after the smoke's cleared, we'd like to send some people over to look around and get a feel for things. Contrary to some versions of the story, the Squadrito representative did not produce a tape measure and start measuring for new drapes. After his pitch was completed, the visitor had one last favor to ask of the mayor. Aware there's never been much love lost between Helmke and his man, he wanted to know if the mayor might jump ship and endorse Democrat Graham Richard over Squadrito. As it turns out, he didn't have to worry. Squadrito didn't win the primary, and you can expect Helmke to stick with his endorsement of Buskirk. ❖

# Indiana Racing Form

## INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

**Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican:** Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy.

**Democrat:** Bart Peterson. **Our Party:** Rev. John Gibson. **Libertarian:** Andrew Horning. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Forecast:** NUVO/TeleResearch Poll shows race in a dead heat at 36 percent (May 22-23, 330 likely, +/-5 percent). Results are similar to Democratic pollster Fred Yang's tracking for Peterson. Republican sources tell Horse Race that Gilroy's camp has also seen tight tracking numbers. And little wonder: she took a full assault from Bob Parker's primary TV ad campaign, and then let Peterson stay on the air uncontested for nearly three weeks following the primary. In that context, the numbers shouldn't be surprising. Gilroy campaign says TeleResearch's 41/36/23 sampling of R's, D's and I's is "10 to 11 percent off" on the Democratic side. That would still put the race within the margin of error. Yang noted that many people he surveyed had confused

### Horse Race

Peterson for Republican primary challenger Bob Parker. In the TeleResearch sampling, Gilroy's fav/unfav stood at 50/39; Peterson's stood at 44/37; Goldsmith's at 69/25 (almost identical to TeleResearch's February numbers) and Sheriff Jack Cottey at 59/22 percent. Other striking numbers include IPS and property taxes as the new top issues, replacing the city's homicide rate. Two Memorial Day weekend murders show that the city isn't completely out of the woods there. The upshot of all of this are the first hard numbers that auger what most observers have been saying for months - this race is going to be a barn burner. **General Status: TOSSUP.**

**Muncie Mayoral: Republican:** Mayor Dan Canan. **Democrat:** Ralph Smith Jr.

**1995 Results:** Canan (R) 9,718, Carey (D) 6,521. **1999 Forecast:** Canan seemed to be in great shape coming out of the primary season, but his letter of reference on city stationary on behalf of a convicted drug dealer with more than 30 arrests seeking a sentence modification is a campaign nightmare. Ouch! Canan also agrees to investigate claims of police misconduct in black neighborhoods following a police beating. Double ouch!! Watch this one. **Status: Leans Canan.**

## INDIANA 2000 RACES

**Governor: Republican:** U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, George Witwer, John Price.

**Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **1996 results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** Last summer Democratic pollster Fred Yang's tracking had O'Bannon's positive ratings in the 70th percentile. The NUVO/TeleResearch Poll in Marion County has FOB's fav/unfav numbers at 52/41. While such comparisons are literally apples or oranges, they have to be sending a shiver of fear down Democratic spines nonetheless. The one baseline fav/unfav in the TeleResearch poll was Mayor Goldsmith, who came in at 69 percent favorable in both this and the February survey. McIntosh really looks like a GO at this point. He was in Northern Indiana earlier this week visiting South Bend, Fort Wayne, Elkhart and had a long talk with Doc Bowen in Bremen on Wednesday. McIntosh had a good earned media day in the South Bend/Elkhart market where he offered to hold field hearings on the impact of the Goodrich/Col-Tec merger on Allied Signal. **General Status: Leans O'Bannon.**

**Congressional District 2: Republican:** U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, Jim Huston, Mike Pence, Supt. Suellen Reed. **Democrat:** Joe Hogsett, New Castle Mayor Sherman Boles, Marc Carmichael, State Rep. Scott Mellinger. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Results:** McIntosh (R) 99,584, Boles (D) 62,426, Federle (L) 2,236. **2000 Forecast:**

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from the National Corridor Planning and Developing Program.

Hostettler is also pressing the National Weather Service to keep the Evansville weather bureau open after a recent tornado touched down and destroyed three homes in Pike County with no prior warning. The NWS has all but closed the Evansville office. Hostettler also cited tornadoes that touched down without posted warnings in Warrick County in 1996 and on the north side of Evansville. The nearest Doppler weather radar sites are located in Indianapolis and Paducah, KY.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon helped open a \$31.4 million chassis plant in Union City this week. O'Bannon rode a stripped-to-the-frame truck as it broke through a yellow ribbon at the Workhorse Custom Chassis plant. The new facility will employ 278 workers in Randolph County, which has one of the highest jobless rates in the state.

The Lake County Sheriff's Department has turned over a report to the county prosecutor that apparently has sufficient evidence to charge several people with absentee ballot vote fraud in the East Chicago mayoral election (Bob Tita, Times of Northwest Indiana). "We have what we feel is very

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strong evidence," said Sheriff John Buncich. "I feel confident that there's enough information to warrant prosecution of several people."

U.S. Attorney Jon DeGuilio will resign his Northern Indiana post and join Barnes & Thornberg.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar told an Indianapolis Armed Forces Day banquet that "neither our economic prosperity nor a host of domestic concerns should detract our attention from the fact that we are at war in Europe for the first time since World War II."



With McIntosh headed for a gubernatorial showdown, the 2nd becomes a nationally contested open seat. McIntosh district director Jim Huston may run, but we're hearing McIntosh will want him to run his gubernatorial campaign. Also eying the race for Republicans is State Rep. Jeff Linder of Shelbyville, although he has not had to run a tough race in some time. His aborted coup attempt against Paul Mannweiler may hurt him with some party people. Reed is signaling that she's in. Key man to watch is Mike Pence, the 1988-90 nominee whose radio show runs on five district stations. His sister ran McIntosh's '94 campaign. If he gets in, he'll be the man to beat. Democrats appear to be setting their sights on 1994 nominee Joe Hogsett, with Mellinger's name at the top of a fallback list. Best bet is that if Hogsett gets in, the state and national Democrats will try to do all they can to clear the field in order to save resources. But Joe has some major making up to do with Big Labor. Should that happen, Horse Race sees this headed for the Toss-Up zone. **Status:** *Leans R.*

## Horse Race

**Congressional District 9: Republican:** Kevin Shaw Kellems, Michael Bailey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Libertarian:** Open. **Geography:** New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459 (D), Leising (R) 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton (D) 128,885, Leising (R) 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Results:** Hill (D) 92,477, Leising (R) 87,278, Feeney (L) 2,397. **2000 Forecast:** Kellems formed exploratory committee and issued nine questions on Social Security, educational choice, defense spending and Chinese espionage. Clark County business and civic leader Ned Pfau will chair Kellems' campaign. Other active supporters include Scottsburg Mayor Bill Graham, Madison Mayor Al Huntington, State Sen. Johnny Nugent and State Auditor Connie Nass. Anti-abortion crusader Michael Bailey can be expected to enter the GOP primary in a continued effort to boost his issue. That contrast could help Kellems in that the news media will be engaged during the primary season. While Kellems will be a better organized and funded Republican than Leising was and will be counting on strength at the top of the national and state tickets to help, we see this as an uphill battle (no pun intended) against a freshman Democrat with a formidable organization that pulled out a late victory in 1998. Like the 2nd CD, this seat and the 8th CD next door will likely become top battlegrounds as both national parties fight for control of the House. **Status:** *Leans D.*

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