THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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Hamilton's void leaves 'Bloody 9th?'

Rollicking primaries shaping up on both sides

NEW ALBANY - The once stable 9th Congressional District has become a live wire of political activity in the wake of U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton's surprise retirement announcement on Monday.

Within hours of the announcement, vigorous showdowns in both parties began to take shape. On the Democratic side, former legislator Baron Hill's name came tumbling off the lips of both Hamilton and Gov. Frank O'Bannon as a probable nominee. But State Rep. Bill Bailey, a former mayor of Seymour, told HPR he plans to commission a poll with "litmus questions to determine how conservative the district is." Bailey said he plans to do the poll this spring.

It is also probable that a Democratic candidate will emerge from the populous Jefferson-Floyd county area. New Albany Mayor Doug England, who has hosted hospitality suites at past Democratic Editorial Association conventions, is expected to give the race serious consideration. Another name is Clark County Judge Jerry Jacobi, who is extremely popular and would inherit the district's biggest Democratic base.

On the Republican side, a showdown between 1994 and 1996 nominee Jean Leising and former Lugar aide Kevin Shaw Kellems is developing. Leising said on the Mike Pence Show on Network Indiana Tuesday morning, "I would hope to have a decison made within 24 hours." She talked with supporters by phone over the past day.

" I can finally quit contrasting myself with Lee Hamilton and talk about what Jean Leising wants to do," she said.

Kellems, who served as Sen. Richard Lugar's state director and press spokesman, said he was flooded with phone calls from party chairs and mayors from the Floyd, Jefferson and Scott county area urging him to run. "I am humbled by the interest in my potential candidacy and will be prayerfully considering the opportunity to run after I discuss it with those closest to me," said Kellems. The dynamic facing Leising is that she has never run well in Clark and

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"I am just amazed we have been able to sustain ourselves with people going to jail and all...."

–East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick, who is bowing out as Lake County Democratic chairman.

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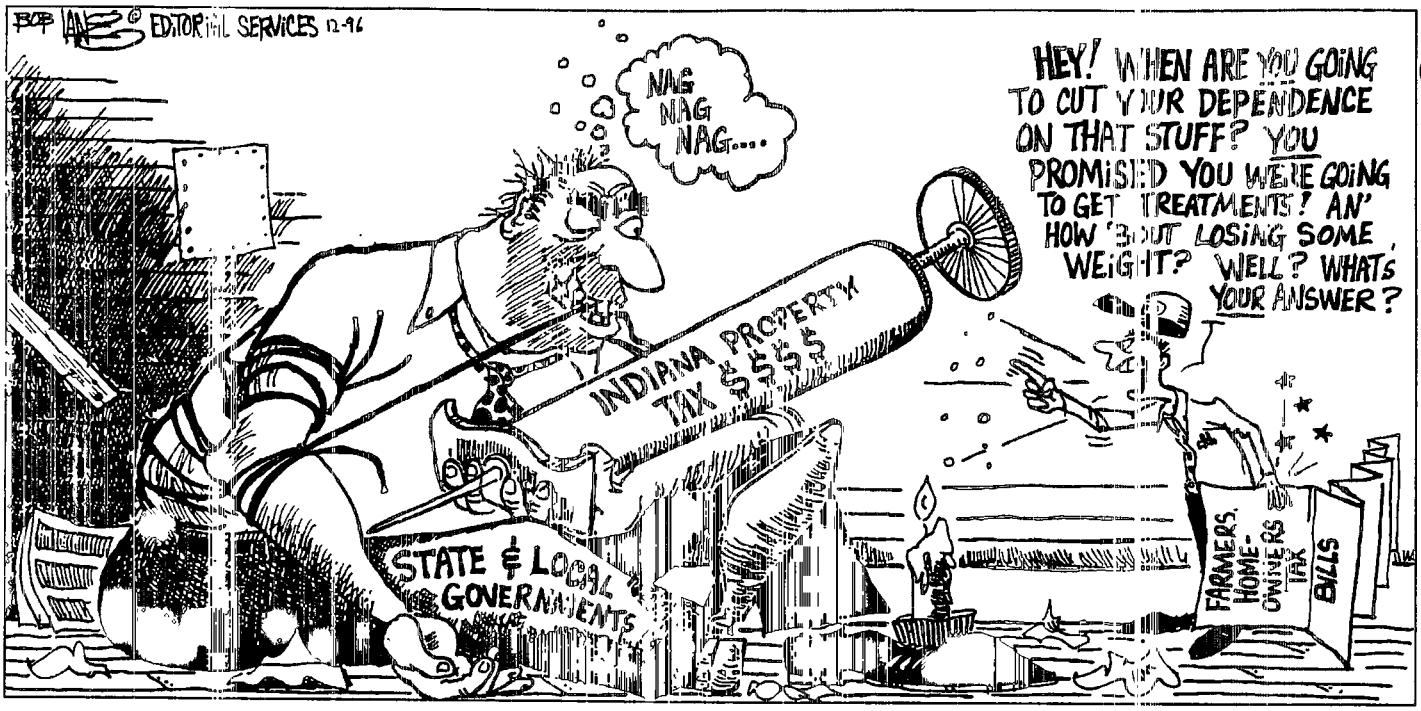

TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, who announced his retirement with grace and dignity. He will go down in Hoosier history as one of the truly great congressmen.

Michael Bailey, who was the 9th CD nominee in 1992, has been working flea markets obtaining signatures for a potential 1998 Republican senatorial run. Those plans may change now that Hamilton has announced that he will not seek re-election in 1998.

How much clout do 9th CD Republican chairmen have? All 21 chairs endorsed Rex Early's 1996 gubernatorial campaign.

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Bloody 9th, from page 1

Floyd counties in her two previous losses. She was also out-raised by Hamilton by more than a 2-to-1 margin in 1996, despite her narrow loss in 1994. A third factor is that her sometimes abrasive personality has worn thin on some GOP leaders.

Republican leaders are quick to point out that Leising didn't even come close in 1996, losing her rematch to Hamilton by a 128,885 to 97,747 margin (56 to 42 percent). Historically, a first rematch in a Congressional race in Indiana is virtually always a failure in modern times, as Mike Pence and Phil Sharp in the 2nd CD, John Brademas and Tom Ward in the 3rd, and Floyd Fithian in the 5th CD can attest. However, Sharp, Brademas and Fithian all won congressional seats on their third try.

The wild card is 1992 nominee Michael Bailey, who achieved national exposure for running graphic anti-abortion TV ads. In the primary that year, then Indiana GOP Chairman Rex Early and the 21 county chairs united behind former state auditor Charlie Loos. The problem was that turnout was so anemic that Bailey was able to mobilize the church buses and he defeated Loos. Hamilton swamped him in the general election that year by a 70-30 percent margin.

No GOP candidate can rely too heavily on the party apparatus, which is virtually meaningless in the Democratic strongholds of Clark and Floyd counties.

The Michael Bailey factor underscores how potentially potent the abortion issue could be in this race. On the Republican side, both Leising and Kellems would have to work to outflank a possible Bailey candidacy by taking a strident pro-life stance that might cut into his support. That could be tough to do in a primary campaign spread out in four media markets and into some of the most remote Hoosier counties.

On the Democratic side, Bill Bailey might hold a significant pro-life card since his House Public Policy Committee held hearings and passed the partial birth abortion bill. Bill Bailey had the power to kill the bill by not hearing it, something he was under pressure from some Democrats to do.

If Baron Hill has an achilles heel, it could be the abortion issue and geography. Hill began the 1990 Senate race as a pro-life candidate, then spent several crucial weeks reversing his position after polling showed that a pro-choice stance would create a better contrast with Coats.

Hill's roots are in Seymour and he will have to move quickly to establish a stronghold in Clark and Floyd. A Jacobi or England candidacy there in a multiple candidate election could make things interesting.

Bet on a Hill-Kellems '98 showdown in the 9th CD

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: So ol' Lee Hamilton is calling it quits in the 9th CD. Horse Race sees two names immediately rising to the top for what will be a classic showdown in 1998: Democrat Baron Hill v. Republican Kevin Shaw Kellems.

■ ■ ■

9TH CD DEMOCRATS: This is a generational opportunity for Southeastern Indiana Democrats. Several names, like New Albany Mayor Doug England, Clark Superior Judge Jerry Jacobi and State Rep. Bill Bailey, will certainly be bandied around. But when Rep. Hamilton and Gov. Frank O'Bannon line up behind Hill within hours of the retirement announcement, then it's strong possibility.

Hill is extremely credible. Currently an Indianapolis stockbroker who still lives in Seymour, Hill has already run statewide, literally walking the length of Indiana in a 1990 race for the U.S. Senate against Dan Coats. He lost by a 54-46 percent margin, which was much closer than anyone dreamed. Not only did he carry the northern industrial corridor from Gary to South Bend, but also most of the Ohio River counties that he'll need in 1998.

Hill is a 1971 Indiana basketball All-Star from Seymour. He served several terms in the Indiana House and, like Hamilton, bowed out gracefully. He later served on Gov. Bayh's staff. Hill has a wonderful voice and is an excellent and intelligent public speaker

9TH CD REPUBLICANS: Had the polls been on target, former state senator Jean Leising might have defeated Hamilton in the 1994 Republican tsunami. Instead, then state chairman Al Hubbard steered late money into the Marion County prosecutor's race and Hamilton prevailed by 7,000 votes. Leising tried the almost impossible in 1996 - winning on a second try - and didn't even come close. In that race she had fund-raising problems. Can Leising do what John Brademas, Floyd Fithian and Phil Sharp did - win an Indiana Congressional seat on a third try? It's doubtful. The big reason is that Leising's prickly personality has made people who wanted to admire her back off. Legend has it that after she cleaned out her desk in the Indiana Senate, the GOP staff celebrated after she closed the door.

More importantly, former Lugar aide and Madison native Kevin Shaw Kellems finds himself at a personal crossroads that makes this race extremely attractive. He will finish his master's degree in national security studies (Hamilton's forte) at Georgetown University this spring. He is a former *Louisville Courier-Journal* reporter who went on to be Lugar's press secretary and state director, giving him excellent contacts not only through the 9th, where his family has a farm in Jefferson County, but in Indianapolis and Washington. He has allies in all wings of the Indiana GOP. Kellems worked as spokesman for Lugar's historic 1994 re-election campaign and on the 1996 presidential run. Like Hill, Kellems is handsome with a keen intellect and an articulate speaking style.

HPR FORECAST: A Hill-Kellems showdown would be the premiere 1998 congressional race in Indiana, if not nationally. Both will be fully able to fund the campaign. The district was Republican before Hamilton won in 1964 and he held it by the sheer power of his personality and stewardship. O'Bannon noted that it was Republican leaning and added, "It will be a tough race."

The 9th is a sprawling 21-county district that is toughest in Indiana to travel and is divided among four media markets, including two out of state: Ohio (Cincinnati) and Kentucky (Louisville). The 9th CD is conservative and will present an excellent opportunity for a GOP pickup, particularly if the national environment accented by Clintonian scandal and the traditional "six-year itch" comes into play against Democrats.

TICKER TAPE

Yet Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith carried 20 of the counties and eventual LG nominee George Witwer won Scott County.

The Leising campaign had never fully shut down after her 56-42 percent loss in 1996. She had speculated that Hamilton might be selected to a Clinton administration cabinet post and was keeping the powder dry.

Both Indiana Republican senators greeted the news of Hamilton's retirement in glowing terms. "Lee Hamilton has been a giant in the Congress," said U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. "He has been equally at home at town meetings and parades in the 9th District of Indiana and in meetings with the leaders of Germany, Russia and China in their countries." Said Coats, "Lee is honorable, a real gentleman and statesman-like."

Greg Zoeller, an unsuccessful Republican attorney general candidate in 1996, has been named Campaign America's Indiana director. Dan Quayle's political action committee has moved its headquarters from Carmel to Scottsdale, Arizona.

Former Clinton administration economist Wendell Primus told a University of Notre Dame audience last Friday

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Hamilton proud of his service, but is distressed at the state of politics

HPR INTERVIEW

" I'm really distressed with the information coming out with regards to campaign financing in both parties. I don't like what I'm hearing. The two most prominent politicians in the country, I guess, President Clinton and Speaker Gingrich, have both been under considerable fire. That tells you something about the world of politics."

- Rep. Lee Hamilton

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton has done many versions of NBC's "Meet the Press" over the years. But Monday's conference call with the 9th CD news media shortly after he announced his retirement caught the essence of the man who will long be remembered as one of Indiana's greatest congressmen.

Here is the text of that call:

Hamilton: Good afternoon. This is Lee Hamilton. As you know I announced today I will not be a candidate for re-election in 1998. At the end of this term, I will have served 34 years in the Congress and I think that's enough. There hasn't been a single event compelling the decision. I leave the Congress two years hence feeling very good. I'm in good health. I'm not pessimistic about the Congress, the membership or the future of the country. There are plenty of challenges ahead but I'm quite sure now is the time for me to step aside. I think I have a sense that I would like to put aside some of the responsibilities of my life and have a little more personal space. I don't want to overstay my time in the United States Congress. I hope I know when to retire. I'm aware it takes great energy and total commitment to represent well the 21 counties of the 9th Congressional District and I think it's time for me to turn the responsibility over to someone else. I'm aware the clock continues to click and when the 106th Congress begins in 1999, I would be almost 68 years of age. I do look forward to other opportunities, but I don't know exactly what those will be.

Jan McManus, Evansville Press: Have you been offered a position at the Clinton administration? Or will you be?

Hamilton: No is the answer to both your questions. I have not been offered any position in the present administration and I'm not hoping that I will be. The decision I made is not related in any way to employment.

Debbie Albertson, WWWL: What was your most memorable event in Congress?

Hamilton: I don't really look back at one or two things as outstanding. That's not the way my mind works. I look back with a great deal of satisfaction about my career. I look forward to the next two years. I believe I have served with integrity. I believe I have tried to be responsive with Hoosier voters. I have tried to be accessible. I have tried to make government work better and cost less. I have done my best to let people know their government is there to serve them. I look back with personal pride at what we've been able to do for Southern Indiana in terms of all kinds of infrastructure projects. It improves the quality of life for Hoosiers. I came to Congress with no overriding ambition or scheme. I simply wanted to make the government work better and contribute to the direction and success of the country and in a very modest way I think I've been able to help. I don't leave here with huge regrets. It will not be easy to walk away from an institution I've worked at for 30 or 40 years.

Question: What will be your priority for the next two years?

Hamilton: I will certainly stay very active. One priority will be to see if I can help in the fight against drug abuse in Southern Indiana. I have been very concerned about a large number of anecdotal reports on the increase of drugs in Southern Indiana. A lot of good things are being done, but I think we need to energize our communities even more. Secondly, there will be a major fight up here on the highway bill. Indiana is a donor state. We only get back about 82 cents for every dollar and I want to try and change that formula.

Brian Howey: We've seen the most senior tier of the Indiana Congressional delegation - John Myers, Andy Jacobs and now yourself - retire. What does that do to Indiana's clout in Congress?

Hamilton: We will miss John Myers and Andy Jacobs here. Power in this institution comes from two sources - seniority and the second is competence. You have to have both, really, in order to be most effective in the Congress. We lost a lot of clout when we lost Andy and John. I think in my retiring, Indiana will lose some political clout. But I'm not pessimistic about

this. We've got a lot of good people in Indiana and good people coming along and it will just take us a little more time to build up more seniority in the Congressional delegation.

Howey: What are the chances of the Democrats to hang on to the 9th CD? And who might we see emerge after you?

Hamilton: I make the decision to retire and announce it now simply because I've made up my mind and I didn't want to dissemble about it. They knew because of my age I wouldn't be here forever. I made the decision now so I could clear the decks for others to make plans and give them time to do it. I think in order to give somebody a chance in the 9th District, you need two years. I made the decision to announce early in the session because it would soon become evident to people because I wouldn't be raising money. I'm not sure who will come forward in my party. Of those who are interested, Baron Hill will be a strong candidate and I would certainly expect to support Baron on the basis of what I know now of the potential candidates. But others may come forward and I will reserve judgment, of course.

Marty Pratt, WJCP: Would you consider a run for president or vice president, or does a return to Indiana sound good at this point?

Hamilton: Oh, no. I'm not considering any public office in the future. I'm not making this decision on the basis of positioning myself for any public or private position.

Question: How long have you been thinking about this?

Hamilton: I've been thinking about it seriously about a month after the last election and I made up my mind, I suspect, toward the end of the year or the first part of this year. This past weekend I ran into some grade school students and one of them asked me if I knew Andy Jackson. Another wanted to know if I liked working with Abraham Lincoln. I decided that if I looked that old, it was time for me to step aside.

Clinton James, WBBC: Do you fear because you made the decision now you will lose effectiveness in the Congress?

Hamilton: I don't think so. I have observed this phenomenon a number of times when members announced their retirements. If I had made the judgment that I would lose a lot of clout, then I would not have made the announcement early.

Question: Have you heard from the White House or did you call?

Hamilton: I did not call the president. I think he's got more important things to do. I really didn't want to bother him with it. I did call Gov. O'Bannon earlier today.

Tom Wyman, AP: Is there an issue in foreign affairs you found particularly gratifying or disappointing?

Hamilton: No, I guess not. I don't really think in terms of specific things looking back. I have had the opportunity to express myself to presidents, vice presidents and secretaries of state over a long list of items. But nothing stands out by itself.

Howey: We have two Shakespearean tragedies taking place now with the President and his ethical problems and Speaker Gingrich, who you've been outspoken about. Look in your crystal ball and tell us what you see in store for these two men.

Hamilton: (Sigh) First of all, I'm really deeply distressed with the information coming out with regards to campaign financing in both parties. I don't like what I'm hearing. I know many of these things are still allegations, but I'm distressed nonetheless. The two most prominent politicans in the country, I guess, President Clinton and Speaker Gingrich, have both been under considerable fire for events in one form or another. That tells you something about the world of politics we are all in. Our two most prominent politicians are in trouble because they have pushed the envelope, as it were, on campaign financing. So it, to me, lifts up the priority of the problem. I think the investigations in the Congress and the Justice Department should go forward. I think not all the problems will lay on the doorstep of one political party in the end. I think the facts should be dug out and the chips should fall where they may. And I do believe we need major reform in the area of campaign finance. I have said frequently that I love my job and the opportunity to work in the Congress, but one aspect of the job I did not like was the money chase, never have liked it and never was particularly good at it. And it's one aspect of the job that I will not miss at all.

TICKER TAPE

that welfore reform measures signed by the president last August are "immoral" and will throw more than a million children into poverty. "We politicized it," said Primus, who resigned in protest of the policy. "Many of these things should have been corrected without all the bragging by politicians and all the press attention."

David Berkemeier, the Republican mayor of Tipton, resigned to become director of marketing and economic development for the Indiana Muncipal Power Agency. That is a cooperative of 31 municipal power facilities around the state. Berkemeier was elected in 1991 and ran unopposed for a second term in 1995.

Attorney General Jeff Modisett is urging frustrated America OnLine customers to contact his office after receiving complaints that many had spent 30 minutes or more on hold while trying to get a refund. "I am incensed by early reports from consumers who say they have called what was suppoed to be an adequately staffed AOL toll-free 800 number to request a refund, only to hang up in frustration," Modisett said.

U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer has invited Gov. Frank O'Bannon to tes-

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tify before the House Subcommittee on Surface Transportation on behalf of the Step 21 proposal."The Step 21 proposal ensures that all states receive at least a 95 percent return on the payments made to the federal highway trust fund," Buyer said.

A Senate resolution approved in committee last week would take power away from the lieutenant governor and require the president of the Senate be a senator. Currently, LG Joe Kernan presides over the Senate."It's like a state senator breaking a 2-2 tie on a Supreme Court decision," said Sen. Joe Harrison."That's ludicrous. It's executive branch influence on the legislative process."Republicans insist the bill is not aimed at Kernan or the O'Bannon administration. It has been proposed frequently over the past 15 years. "I understand from the Senate perspective," Kernan told AP."I certainly don't take it personally. My feelings are mixed."

House Speaker John Gregg realized his weekly press conference with reporters might be upstaged by a committee hearing on multi-class high school basketball. His press release noted,"If you feel compelled to miss this availability in order to attend the inquiry

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Brian Howey, *HPR*- The dilemma for David McIntosh is does he want to give up a safe gig in the House, where is on the threshold of top leadership, to challenge the popular Bayh? To spice up that question, throw in the teetering Speaker Newt Gingrich to compound the equation. McIntosh has been in the Gingrich inner circle the day he entered Congress. Yet he has masterfully eluded any taint of that association. With the speaker now under attack from the right (for hosting Jesse Jackson at Clinton's State of the Union) and the IRS gearing up for the second ethical shoe to drop, how does this impact the man from Muncie? Probably not too negatively, because McIntosh has been independent enough to establish a buffer from Gingrich. But if the speaker resigns, does McIntosh move up into the second tier of House GOP hierarchy should the Buckeye boys - Reps. John Kasich and John Boehner from Ohio - replace Reps. Dick Armey and Tom DeLay, who do stand to be glued to Newt's fate? Would McIntosh want to give up that kind of early power to take on Bayh? While his staff describes McIntosh this week as "a risk-taker," let's assume he awakes some morning, looks himself in the mirror and says, "Why, why, why take on Evan Bayh, Bayh, Bayh?"

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - For many in America, the Christian Coalition has been a distasteful example of religious zealotry gone amok, a group dedicated to creating a country of me-too conservative Christians to the exclusion of everyone else. It has tried - often successfully - to hide behind the protections traditionally extended to religions while operating as a purely political advocacy group. But last week the Christian Coalition offered a mea culpa that, if sincere, should be welcomed by all of us. The group's executive director, Ralph Reed, acknowledged that the Christian Coalition has been a "white, evangelical Republican movement whose center of gravity has rested in the cloistered safety of the suburbs. On Thursday, he was surrounded by a group of black and Hispanic pastors and civil rights activists. In 1995, Reed was flanked by House Speaker Newt Gingrich and other GOP bigwigs.

Phil Wieland, *The Times* - All those shocked out of their shoes by the news that more than 120 years worth of county records have been lost and another 37 years worth will have to be redone because the Lake County clerk's office screwed up the microfilming, raise your hands. The clerk's office spent the past 24 years putting millions of pages of official documents on microfilm so those millions of bulky documents could be turned into millions of paper airplanes with which to amuse the millions of bulky bureaucrats we elect to office. That was supposed to make things more efficient because the time a bureaucrat spends folding and sailing paper airplanes is time he or she is not preoccupied with soliciting bribes or pillaging the public till and, therefore, time well spent. Now, thanks to the county ignoring repeated warnings that the microfilming process was so pitiful ...we have forever lost the records of lawsuits, weddings, licenses and court orders dating back to 1838. The real problem is that the county was using the wrong kind of camera. Instead of a document microfilm camera, they used, and I wish I could make stuff up that was this stupid, a camera used by banks to microfilm checks. This caused the unique problem that every document photographed appeared to be wearing a ski mask or pantyhose over its face. The camera also is incapable of providing a flat surface, like the top of a bureaucrat's head, so part of every document is out of focus.

Mike Leonard, *Bloomington Herald-Times* - It began bizarre and ended absurd. But closure? Hardly. Unless O.J. Simpson slashes his own throat and leaves a tell-all note behind, there will never be closure in the epic trials and tribulations of O.J. Simpson. You either believe that the former football star killed his ex-wife Nicole and her friend, Ron Goldman, or you don't.

McIntosh reaps WhoDB publicity; Bayh returns Huang/Zhan money

INDIANAPOLIS - With decisions on a U.S. Senate race just around the corner, U.S. Rep. David McIntosh is riding an almost unprecedented wave of national publicity over the controversial White House database.

In tandem with that, the Fort Wayne *Journal Gazette* reported last week that former Gov. Evan Bayh's campaign committee returned $2,000 in late 1996 to John Huang and his wife, a former DNC fundraiser, Commerce Department official and executive of the Lippo Group. In addition, another $2,000 was returned to Keshi Zhan of Arlington, Va.

Huang has been at the epicenter of a growing fund-raising scandal involving the Democratic National Committee, President Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign and the WhoDB. In the Feb. 7 edition of the *Wall Street Journal*, Huang was characterized as participating in "questionable fund-raising activities" than had begun "earlier than is generally known." Zhan's name surfaced in a *Washington Post* story that questioned how a $22,000 a year government clerk could have donated more than half of that to the Democratic National Committee.

This confluence of controversial fund-raising casts an interesting new angle on a potential Senate showdown between Bayh and McIntosh, who has conducted a statewide tour over the last few weeks to test the waters. During the tour that included stops in Fort Wayne, Evansville, Bloomington and Elkhart, McIntosh enjoyed significant national exposure.

When the WhoDB story broke in earnest last week, McIntosh was interviewed by all of the major television networks and most of the nation's major daily newspapers. He told the WSJ that "it is outrageous" that so much fund-raising information and activity flowed between the White House and the DNC, including $1.7 million used to develop WhoDB in 1993 shortly after Clinton began his term.

McIntosh's role in exposing the controversy was elevated on Thursday, Feb. 6, when a senior White House aide, Marsha Scott, said in a sworn statement before congressional investigators that "there was no database at the White House at all."

Said McIntosh, who chairs a House Government Reform and Oversight subcommittee, "From misleading testimony under oath to efforts to keep the existence of WhoDB top secret, the White House has been wracked with paranoia about concealing the existence of WhoDB from the American people. It's outrageous that President Clinton's senior aides routinely tapped into the 1992 campaign's database from inside the White House. These revelations demonstrate clearly that for the White House the 1996 campaign began the day the 1992 campaign ended - and it used $1.7 million in taxpayer funds to create a supercomputer of political and contributor files for use within the White House."

The fact that Bayh received campaign contributions from Huang in December 1995 and returned them a year later could have a 1998 political impact, particularly in a race against McIntosh. But Bayh aides and Democrats don't believe it will.

"As far as we know, individually the contributions by John Huang were lawful at the time he was an employee at Commerce," said Tom Sugar, director of the Evan Bayh Committee. "To the best of our ability, we try to catch these things. It's always been our commitment to catch those contributions that are inappropriate."

Democratic consultant Chris Sautter said the Huang contributions to Bayh and their return "will have zero impact" in 1998.

As for McIntosh's activities, Sautter said the WhoDB "potentially gives McIntosh a very nice platform moving into an election year."

But, Sautter added, "This can all be a trap. If they don't find anything, the public gets tired of it and it can backfire."

Sautter added that he met McIntosh at the Indiana Society Ball. "I looked into his eyes and saw somebody who wanted to do it," he said of a run against Bayh. "But my gut feeling now is that he won't."

TICKER TAPE

into multi-class basketball conducted by The Greek God, AKA State Rep. Tom Alevizos, rest assured that the Speaker will not be offended."

U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky has authored a bill that would waive clean air and water permits for developers interested in reclaiming brownfield sites. "Until a brownfields bill can be passed, they're (factories) sitting out in communities like Northwest Indiana and they're a drain on the economy and a drain on the environment," said Dwayne Lawler, an aide to Visclosky.

The South Bend Tribune reports that an Indiana law that eliminated "fair share" union fees from teachers "has had a negligible impact on union membership" at the South Bend Community School Corp. Out of more than 1,300 teachers, only 148 refused to pay voluntarily. "It wasn't a surprise," said Richard Beeching, director of the NEA-SB. "We felt pretty confident that people were members because they wanted to be members. We really didn't fear a mass defection."

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler may be the only Republican member of Congress to oppose a coming vote on the balanced budget amendment (Gerard Shields, Evansville Courier).

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Hostettler was one of eight Republicans to vote against the amendment in 1996. Shields reports, "Republicans think they have recruited the other seven to their side." At least 57 Democrats are expected to vote for the amendment, leaving GOP leaders the need for recruiting seven votes from freshmen Democrats. But Hostettler refuses to budge, saying, "We don't need to amend the Constitution to do what Congress has the ability to do at any time."

Notice to HPR subscribers: Many of you have moved with your new offices and positions since the Nov. 5 elections. Please contact HPR with your new addresses at 317-685-0883 or hpr@inoffice.com

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Hoosier 'Boss Era' fades with McDonald, Pastrick

EVANSVILLE - The era of "The Boss" is quickly vanishing here in Indiana.

Two of the most prolific Hoosier bosses met up with different versions of finality over the past two weeks. Former Evansville mayor Frank McDonald Sr. died at age 84. And in East Chicago, Mayor Robert Pastrick met with Lake County Democratic Party officials on Jan. 30 and announced he would step down.

After Pastrick leaves the mayor's office - probably in 1999 - Indiana won't have any political bosses left. The definition of a political boss is a public official or a party chairman who has enough clout to work the political machinations to his liking or whim. After Pastrick, there is no one who comes close to fitting that description and the biggest reason is the demise of patronage. Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith might have come closest to restoring that kind of power, but Frank O'Bannon took care of that last November.

Pastrick is the essence of a boss, by looks, movement and action. I first met Pastrick in 1994 at the Indiana Demcratic Editorial Association convention at French Lick Springs Resort. It was close to midnight and most of the editors and politicos were in the bar partying when an entourage appeared - a dapper looking Pastrick in white pants and white shoes, surrounded by a half dozen cronies.

Pastrick has ruled with such an iron fist that *The Times* of Northwest Indiana refers to his city in editorials as the "People's Republic of East Chicago." In that kind of environment, enemies one year can be friends the next.

Take former sheriff Stephen Stiglich, for example. Stiglich challenged Pastrick for the mayoral nomination in 1995. Pastrick fended off the challenge with ample greenbacks to his machine and won a tight election. On the morning after the election, a candidate who received less than 1 percent of the vote filed for a recount and, as *The Times* reported, "Had the records transferred to the sole custody of a Pastrick appointee at the election board."

The records have been under a 22-month court-ordered seal. *The Times'* William Lazarus reported, "Most recently, the records were found to be in shambles, even though they were supposed to still be under seal."

With Pastrick in his twilight, that paves the way for Pastrick's arch-rival, Stiglich, to take over the party. Stiglich received the endorsement of current Lake County Sheriff John Buncich, who told *The Times*, "In a public display of trust, I urge you to vote for and support Stephen R. Stiglich." That was a far cry from a May 26, 1996 guest column in *The Times* when Buncich accused Stiglich and county Surveyor George VanTil of having "fed at the public trough for 25 years or more, jumping from one appointed or elected position to another."

Despite the indictment or jailing of more than a dozen Lake County Democratic officeholders, Pastrick survived, saying in an AP story, "I am amazed we have been able to sustain ourselves with people going to jail and all."

McDonald built one of the strongest political machines in Vanderburgh County while serving as sheriff in the 1950s during one of Evansville's darkest moments. Late that decade, 20,000 jobs were lost when Chrysler, Servel and International Harvester closed down factories.

In 1959, McDonald eked out a 3,800-vote victory over Republican Donald Ingle. During his three terms from 1960 to 1972, McDonald initiated what the *Evansville Courier* describes as "massive urban renewal," built the Civic Center, helped created a public university and attracted scores of new industries.

The Courier quoted veteran newsman Tom Ryder as remembering McDonald this way: "He was a political boss on a small scale but in the same vein as Richard Daley in Chicago. He operated Evansville the same way and very effectively. He knew what he was doing."