THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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Brian A. Howey
editor and publisher

The Howey Political Report
PO Box 20877
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Office: 317-254-1533
Fax: 317-254-2405
bhowey@nuvo.net

Business office: 317-253-0921

Daytime number: 317-254-2400, Ext. 273

NewsLink Home Page: http://www.inoffice.com/hpr

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"I never took a dime from the treasury in 25 years. I didn't have anything to do with the treasury. I sold tickets...." - **East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick on the missing Lake County Democratic Party financial records, to the Gary Post-Tribune.**

O'Bannon prepares Lake County reward

Groundwork in place for bigger 2000 pluralities

LOWELL - One thing began to truly crystalize in Northwest Indiana over Labor Day weekend: Gov. Frank O'Bannon is becoming "da man of da Region."

O'Bannon made numerous Labor Day appearances throughout the industrial belt of Northern Indiana. In Lake County, where Republican Stephen Goldsmith spent $2 million to cut into traditional Democratic pluralities, even Republicans were impressed at O'Bannon's attention. The biggest reason was $116 million of his $687 million Crossroads 2000 Highway Plan was dedicated to Lake County highways.

The local press reported that O'Bannon had made his 10th trip to Lake County since he took office last January.

"The attitude downstate is not to spend a lot of money up here," said Lake County Republican Chairman Roger Chaibai (Rich James, *Gary Post-Tribune*). "We get commitments from all governors - from both parties - and usually they don't keep them. He's doing it. He is spending time here and getting money up here. It's a godsend."

Former Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott, a Republican added, "In recent memory, I can't remember a governor willing to put that kind of effort in. He is here more than some governors are in eight years."

O'Bannon's efforts are significant because Lake County has the third highest pool of Republican voters in Indiana and there is a steady in-migration from Illinois. Any O'Bannon re-election strategy in 2000 has to include strengthening on his 57,000 vote plurality in Lake County to make up for Indianapolis voters who might be inclined to return to their Republican roots. In 1996, Goldsmith lost Marion County by 17,000 votes.

Democrats were aglow, too, about O'Bannon. State Rep. Chet Dobis called O'Bannon the best of the five governors he's served under. "He is a working governor," Dobis said.

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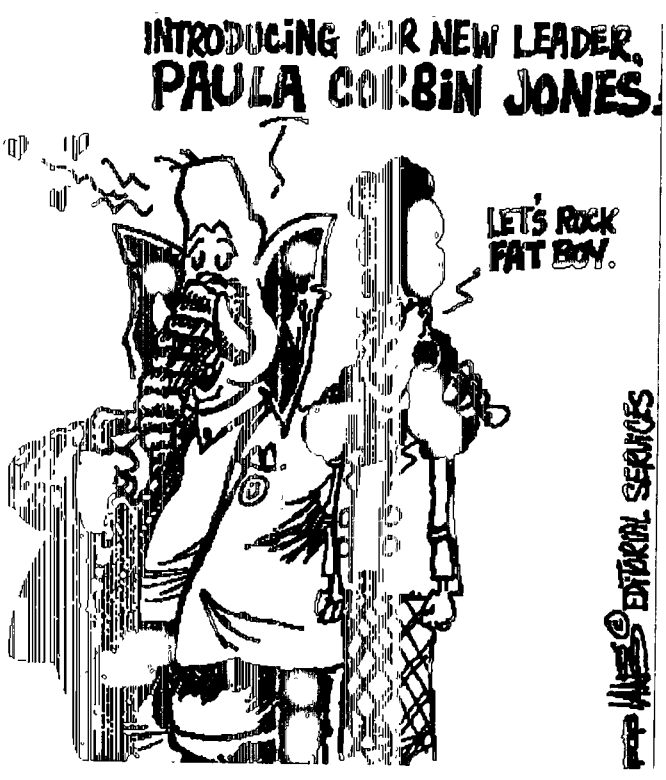
Beginning our fourth year of the best Indiana political coverage - see page 2

Bob Lang



TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: The City of Kokomo, for beginning the planning process of making U.S. 31 a freeway, instead of the 20-stoplight traffic trap that it is now. But the local Bypass Association is opposing the plan, saying it will "take out a lot of businesses."

■ ■ ■

East Chicago Mayor Robert Patrick is getting attention for missing financial records from the Lake County Democratic Party. Pastrick turned over the reins of the party to Stephen Stiglich last winter. Since the change, Stiglich's regime hasn't seen the party's financial records. On Monday, former

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Schoeff joins HPR as Washington correspondent; newsletter begins fourth year of publishing

This issue begins The Howey Political Report's fourth year of continuous published commentary and analysis on Indiana politics.

It is also the commencement of a new era for the report.

On pages 4 and 5, you'll find the first report from HPR Washington Correspondent Mark Schoeff Jr.

Schoeff is currently director of external relations for the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a bipartisan Washington-based think-tank. In that role, Schoeff directs media and congressional relations for the institute and its 80 research specialists.

Prior to joining CSIS and HPR, Schoeff served as press secretary for U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar from 1992 to 1995. Schoeff is a Fort Wayne native, a Purdue University graduate and recipient of the outstanding student awards at the Purdue Krannert School of Management and the Institute for Political Journalism at Georgetown University.

"This represents a dramatic expansion for the newsletter and our political enterprises," said HPR publisher Brian Howey. "Prior to Mark's arrival, HPR's Washington coverage was essentially monitoring the news media and my own contacts. Mark Schoeff will provide exclusive, on-the-ground writing and analysis from Capitol Hill. To get someone of Mark's caliber is an excellent way of providing a greater service to our readers."

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In addition to Schoeff, HPR will continue to feature nationally-recognized cartoonist Bob Lang of Churubusco, Ind. Lang's work can be seen featured daily on the CNN/Time Magazine All Politics Internet web site.

HPR will also feature expanded commentary from such Indiana-based writers as Mike Pence, Harrison Ullmann, and Dave Kitchell of the *Logansport Pharos-Tribune*.

Polls still looking good for incumbents in Congress; Clinton still at 60 percent

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: A CNN/*USA Today*/Gallup Poll showed that 60 percent of Americans approve the budget deal and give credit to Republican leaders like House Speaker Newt Gingrich. In Indianapolis two weeks ago, former Vice President Dan Quayle was sharply critical of the budget deal. The poll also recalled that Democrats had a 50-40 percent lead over which party they would vote for in the 1998 Congressional elections. President Clinton's 60 percent approval rating is slightly higher than Presidents Reagan and Eisenhower posted during the first August of their second terms.

■ ■ ■

■ **1998 Indiana Senate** Secret meetings have occurred in Vincennes and Indianapolis, apparently with some involvement from Indiana GOP Chairman Mike McDaniel. John Price and Peter Rusthoven had a stormy confrontation while McDaniel sought a truce last week. Indianapolis Star noted that Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke was planning to vacation with his family during the Labor Day weekend. Instead, Helmke helped battle a downtown Fort Wayne tire fire that coated office buildings with melted rubber. That could be a great campaign issue for Republicans. IDEM under the Bayh administration allowed the tire storage to begin at the site. The company later filed for bankruptcy. Sources tell HPR that Helmke fumed when Gov. Frank O'Bannon came to town to promise relief.

■ **2nd CD:** Democratic New Castle Mayor Sherman Boles has announced he will challenge U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. He spent Labor Day attacking McIntosh in front of friendly labor rallies. "We're losing jobs in great numbers," Boles said of NAFTA (Marty Schladen, Muncie Star Press). For his part, McIntosh said at Ball State University that he had found new ways to cooperate with labor leaders, citing his July job fair in Muncie that placed 160 workers. **Status:** *Leans Republican.*

■ **9th CD:** With Kevin Kellems' endorsement of Jean Leising, the Republicans have a chance to save resources in an effort to win this open seat. Leising will still have to defeat anti-abortionist Michael Bailey in the primary. With current political trends, HPR still sees uncontested Democrat Baron Hill as the favorite. The economy, a big early fund-raising advantage and poor GOP organizations and lists in many of the 21 counties, as well as Lee Hamilton's endorsement are big pluses for Hill. **Status:** *Leans Democrat.*

■ **Clerk of the Courts:** On the Republican side there is a real battle shaping up to follow outgoing Clerk John Okeson. The latest to join the race is Mark Shublack, a government affairs consultant for Johnson Smith Pence in Indianapolis who served under Okeson. Others lining up for the race are Ralph R Anderson, an unsuccessful legislative candidate from Cass County in 1992, and Cass County GOP Chairman Jeff Stanton. **Status:** *tossup.*

■ **2000 Republican Governor:** Let's face it, Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy has a great spin machine going. When the Bob Novak column hit the streets, it was faxed out statewide. Every politico now knows the weird events at Meridian Hills Country Club when Gov. George Bush met with Goldsmith and then seemed to endorse Gilroy. Gilroy gave a new speech on education before the Indianapolis Kiwanis. Earlier, she sparred with Democratic Executive Director Mike Harmless, who wondered why she was touring schools. "My desire to help improve education in Indiana is a nong one of the central motivations for my involvement in public service," Gilroy responded. "I was pleased when Evan Bayh, as secretary of state, spoke out frequently on the importance of the issue." HPR is unconvinced that Goldsmith has thrown in the towel on a 2000 rematch and is seeking a GOP cabinet post. It's just too early.

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party treasurer Jim Fife took the blame. "The bottom line is it is my fault," Fife told the Gary Post-Tribune. "I just didn't get around to it. I am almost done with the final reports." The Lake County prosecutor's office said last week that it would seek the records either in writing or by subpoena. Pastrick, meanwhile, was angered by the threat of a subpoena. "I never took a dime from the treasury in 25 years. I didn't have anything to do with the treasury. I sold tickets. The story should come from Jimmy Fife."

Does the media go too far in covering celebrity news? That was the question Anderson Herald-Bulletin reporter Chris Colby asked following the death of Princess Diana. Ball State photojournalism coordinator Tom Price said the press will be the obvious target. "I think people sort of hate the media anyway," Price said. "But I am just sort of curious as to the public's reaction to the driver's having done 120 miles per hour after having 10 glasses of wine." In the newspaper's unscientific phone poll, every one of the 84 callers said the press has gone too far. "There should be laws against what they do," said Larry Reynolds of over-aggressive journalists. "It's the same as stalking." As for the Hoosier press, it doesn't appear to be

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Labor hopes UPS strike momentum will carry over into 1998 elections

AFL-CIO intends to target Hostettler again; Evan Bayh may provide synergy

By Mark Schoeff Jr.
Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - The momentum generated by a victory for the Teamsters Union in its strike against the United Parcel Service may spill over to organized labor's political operation in 1998. In Indiana that could be multiplied by a strong statewide Senate candidate, former Gov. Evan Bayh.

"I don't think we'll use it as specific campaign cry, but we can point to it and say, 'Look what happens if we stand together,'" Steve Henderson, political director of the Indiana AFL-CIO, said of the UPS strike. "The public supported the Teamsters against corporate greed. It was a shot in the arm as far as attitudes toward unions."

Such a shot in the arm will likely become a shot across the bow of Rep. John Hostettler (R). In 1996, Hostettler was the focus of a barrage of issues advertisements -- criticized by the GOP as thinly veiled attack spots -- that were part of a $35 million national AFL-CIO campaign. "They threw everything but the kitchen sink at John Hostettler, and he survived," said Michael Jahr, Hostettler's press secretary.

The electoral atmosphere will change this time around, with Bayh's probable Senate campaign. Labor may try to take advantage of Bayh's statewide synergy. "Bayh will be well-funded and very popular," said Larry Sabato, professor of political science at the University of Virginia. "Bayh is all but elected. That gives him the flexibility to say and do anything he wants. He can be more pro-labor than usual because he can afford to be."

The Indiana AFL-CIO chapter spent between $20,000 - $30,000 on the 1996 Hostettler race. This time around, Henderson said the union has improved its 8th District operation. It will be better able to communicate its message to weekly newspapers in smaller counties and to find volunteers in those areas. Henderson also hopes to have at least four people permanently assigned from the national political operation to the 8th District by June.

Jahr said unions are not as active now as they were at this time in the last election cycle and that the UPS victory was quickly followed by a setback -- allegations of union corruption.

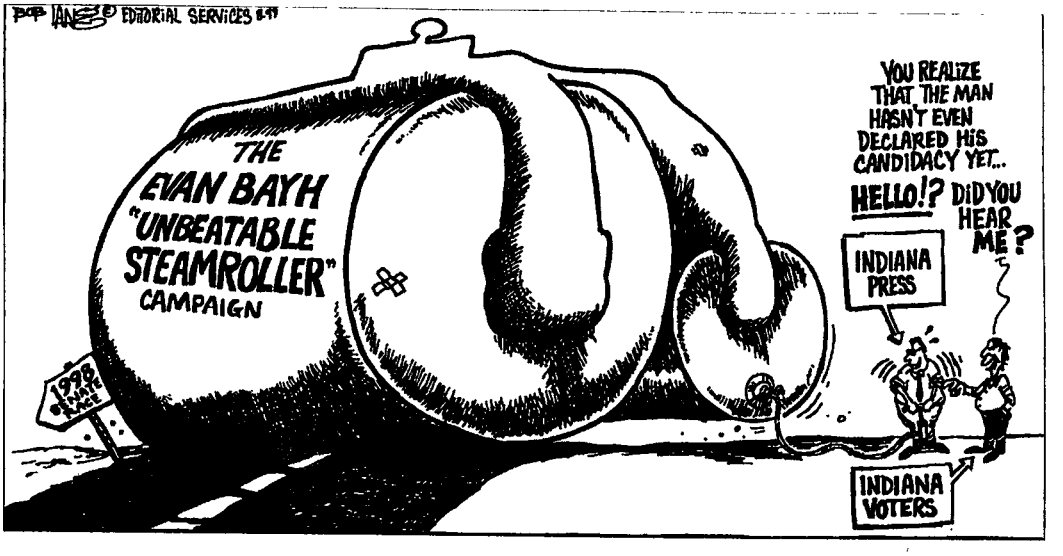
Hostettler's strength is communicating with individuals. "As he talks to the union rank-and-file personally, they know what kind of man he is. Hostettler is not the rabid partisan the unions portray. People are fed up with (union) smear campaigns. Constituents want to see tangible efforts and results," said Jahr. He pointed to Hostettler's constituent service and his bipartisan work to spur economic development in areas such as Daviess County, where Grain Processing Corp. has decided to build a plant that will create hundreds of new jobs.

In 1998, Henderson is looking for a better organized and executed campaign from Hostettler's opponent, around whom primary support may coalesce early. "Next year, it's going to be the Bloody 8th, like always. We have enough ammo to throw at Hostettler," he said. Labor is concentrating on pocketbook issues such as the fast-track trade agreements; the GOP tax plan; pension security and protecting Medicare and Social Security.

Jahr said Hostettler welcomes the debate on those topics because he has voted for tax cuts and to strengthen Medicare without raising taxes.In pushing their themes, look for labor to use tactics similar to those of 1996. Surveys show that 80 percent of union workers back issue advertisements. "Our members say they want us to put ads on television and radio the way we did against Hostettler," Henderson said. "They see the Christian Coalition and NRA (National Rifle Association) doing it." The AFL-CIO is a coalition of 78 labor unions that

CONGRESS WATCH

"Bayh is all but elected. That gives him the flexibility to say and do anything he wants. He can be more pro-labor than usual because he can afford to be."
- Prof. Larry Sabato
University of Virginia



Schoeff, *from page 5*

employ 13.1 million people.

The positive outcome of the UPS strike, in which the Teamsters secured higher wages and more full-time jobs, may not be a harbinger of a labor renaissance, Sabato said. Unions now account for about 15 percent of the work force, if the public and private sectors are combined.

"The UPS strike was the first major labor victory since the 1970s. As such, they would be fools not to use it in ads, stump speeches and in lobbying efforts," Sabato said. "A single victory cannot reverse the tide of history. I can see union membership increasing a little bit or plateauing. It's never going to reach 20 percent again."

Labor turns out big crowds for rallies, parades

ELKHART - Back in 1996, Indiana University pollster Brian Vargus told HPR that he didn't even sample labor as a sub-group demographically because they had simply lost their clout.

This came after the 20,000-person labor rally in the winter of 1995 when prevailing wage was under attack. But renewed labor activism not only helped Gov. Frank O'Bannon upset Stephen Goldsmith last fall, it probably gave the Democrats control of the Indiana House with a 50/50 split

There were vestiges of renewed activism this month during Labor Day festivities throughout the state where big crowds turned out. An estimated 15,000 people greeted Gov. O'Bannon in Lowell, where he rode in a 1929 Packard.

In Elkhart, where unions traditionally haven't had a great deal of clout in the sprawling recreational vehicle industry, several thousand people showed up for a downtown parade that featured O'Bannon, former Gov. Evan Bayh, and U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer.

Ravon "Brother Ray" Hall of Local 153 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in South Bend told the Elkhart crowd that "mean-spirited bosses" were getting wealthy on the backs of rank and file workers (David Schreiber, *Elkhart Truth*). "The free-enterprise system works for the CEOs, but it doesn't work for the working men and women."

In Muncie, State Rep. Tiny Adams told a rally that he bucked the wishes of Gov. O'Bannon and refused to vote for the budget unless labor issues were addressed. "I'll go against the system if it's something I believe in," said Adams (Marty Schladen, *Muncie Star Press*).

Portage Mayor Sammie Maletta may have summed it up best before 300 people. "Labor Day is becoming the kickoff to next year's campaign," he told the *Gary Post-Tribune*. "Now's the time when the ball gets rolling."

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very aggressive at all. The Herald-Bulletin was the only Indiana newspaper HPR has seen that even addressed the issue in a local context.

Former Kokomo City Councilman Rick Hamilton was chosen by Republican precinct committeemen to replace the late Ralph Helms. Helms died on Aug. 15 of a heart attack.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar appears to be fighting an uphill battle against Sen. Jesse Helms over the William Weld ambassador to Mexico nomination. Asked if he had lost support during the August recess, Lugar replied, "I'm not sure we had any before the break, so I'm not sure we had any to lose." Lugar also wrote a letter to Helms urging him to call a hearing on the Weld matter. Lugar said he "had no idea" if the letter would soften Helms' position.

The 1999 East Chicago mayor's race is already underway with State Sen. Lonnie Randolph accusing Mayor Robert Pastrick of foot-dragging on foundations to be funded by riverboat casino funds. Randoph threatened to sue the city if the foundations weren't created in 30 days (Rich James, Gary Post-Tribune). Pastrick said there would be an announcement

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within two weeks to announce the foundations and said it was a laborious process to find 40 people to serve on the boards.

Earlier this year the Evansville League of Women Voters disbanded. Last week, the Indiana chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus was founded with most of its 31 charter members from the Evansville area (Alan Julian, Evansville Courier). "Compared to the League of Women Voters, we're a very challenging and noisy group," chapter president Nancy Gaunt said. "Women must think of themselves in a new role." League of Women Voters limit its activities to studying issues and urging members and the public to act on them as individuals. "The league never, ever supported a candidate," said another charter member, Sylvia Weinzapfel.

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton has asked the White House why so many documents pertaining to the campaign fund-raising scandal are coming to light after it had said all relevant documents had been turned over. "How did such a large volume of significant and clearly responsive documents escape the attention of your staff prior to your certification?" Burton wrote to

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Robert Novak, *Chicago Sun-Times* - Newt Gingrich publicly praised Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith as the "most creative and innovative leader in the country." Later that day, the House speaker told me Goldsmith should be named "head of privatization" by the next Republican president. That's all? Only nine months ago, a loftier future was envisioned for Goldsmith. But that was before he was decisively and unexpectedly defeated for governor last November by 67-year-old Democrat Frank O'Bannon, a stereotypical down-home Hoosier. Prominent Republicans outside Indiana still describe Goldsmith's loss as a "tragedy" for the party. But there is a different tone inside the Hoosier state. One GOP power broker close to Goldsmith in 1996 wants no part of him in 2000. Key Republicans here grumble that the mayor is insufficiently "warm and fuzzy" and talk about matching a good ol' boy next time with a good ol' girl, well-liked Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy. A reformer is without honor in his own state. At a time when national Republicans are obsessed by polls and focus groups to reveal truth, Goldsmith is currently bucking public opinion by opposing higher taxes to build new libraries. No matter how noble the cause, he contends, one general tax increase can open the floodgates. That devotion to principle leads the party bosses to say that Steve Goldsmith, at age 50, is in terminal condition politically. ✍

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - It's not uncommon in politics for candidates to trash each other. It's not unusual for "outsiders" to try to influence the outcome of a state's election. There's nothing rare about members of Congress using the media to critize their colleagues. But it is highly unusual for a senator to seek out a constituent of another senator for some below-the-belt hostility, especially when the senators are in the same party. But (Sen Jesse) Helms apparently finds it perfectly acceptable to call a Hoosier and leave a phone message that sounds like a ready-made TV commercial for Lugar's next opponent. "Mr. Konkle," Helms said in a message left on the answering machine of Dennis Konkle, president of the fledgling Indiana Tobacco Growers Association, "this is Sen. Helms in Washington. I just want you to know that as long as I am in the Senate, neither Dick Lugar nor anyone else is going to destroy your livelihood. I appreciate your standing up to be counted." Lugar, who certainly knows how to squeeze when it's in his political or philosophical interests, had only this to say about Helms' phone message: "This is an unusual personal attack, and I am surprised." ✍

Richard Orr, *Chicago Tribune* - In April 1996, President Clinton signed a bill into law that changed the way American farmers do business. The measure, the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act, fundamentally redesigned farm income support and supply management programs for major crops - wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, rice and upland cotton. "As expected," write farm analysts Lyle Schertz and Warren Johnston, "survey responses and discussions with panelists confirmed that farm owners, operators and managers are favorable toward three particular features in the 1996 farm act: the predictability of program payments; the unambiguous qualifications for payments; and, especially, the elimination of most planting restrictions. ✍

Phil Wieland, *Munster Times* - The world is filled with things I don't understand: the meaning of Life, the meaning of ineluctable, the ISTEP Plus test. For months I've been reading stories, none of which contained the word "ineluctable," about how students must pass the new Indiana State Testing for Educational Progress exam in order to graduate from high school. I don't want to get into one of those generational debates about how students "in my day" were so much smarter than today's kids. I think the SAT scores over the past 30 years say all that needs to be said on that subject. ✍

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Kellems' decision to endorse Leising sends out key signals for the 1998 and 2000 elections

MADISON - Kevin Shaw Kellems' endorsement of Jean Leising in the 9th CD Republican race is a key development that will send important ripples throughout the Hoosier political establishment and potentially influence both the 1998 and 2000 elections.

The two appeared to be set for a primary battle along with 1992 nominee Michael Bailey, one that could have been a disaster for Indiana Republicans. All would have spent a lot of resources to win the primary. The thought of Bailey slipping between Kellems and Leising to win the nomination with his highly controversial aborted fetus ads would be seen by mainstream Republicans as dragging the entire ticket down.

But on Monday, Kellems endorsed Leising and announced that he will head up the re-election campaign for Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy next year.

"This is the battle that matters most for the party in 1998," Kellems said of Gilroy's campaign. "I'm going to give it all I've got."

The reason Republicans view the secretary of state's race as being so important is three-fold. That race will be at the top of the ticket. The winner would get to name the next Speaker of the Indiana House should the 50-50 tie of 1996 be repeated. And if Gilroy cruises to an expected victory, she would be well positioned to win the 2000 gubernatorial nomination. Former Gov. Evan Bayh used the secretary of state's office to do just that in 1988.

Gilroy will be the last remaining member of the "Lugar Team" - the 1994 Republican ticket that also included Auditor Morris Wooden, Treasurer Joyce Brinkmar, and Clerk of Courts John Okeson. Wooden chose not to seek re-election in the face of ethical problems in his administration, Okeson is positioning himself to run for mayor of Fort Wayne, and Brinkman is in the process of self-destructing politically thanks to her lawsuit against the new Indiana Pacers arena and a second confrontation with Wooden and Gov. Frank O'Bannon over the investment strategies of state employee pensions.

Currently there is no obvious Democrat waiting to challenge Gilroy. Freshman State Sen. Cleo Washington of South Bend is said to be giving the race some thought. Gilroy called Kellems "the best there is" as far as his role as a political strategist and his money contacts both in Indiana and in Washington.

This news caps a stunning two weeks for Gilroy, who, in addition to getting the campaign talents of Kellems, was touted by Texas Gov. George W. Bush as the "next governor of Indiana" shortly after meeting privately with 1996 nominee Stephen Goldsmith last weekend during the Midwest Republican Leadership Conference.

Kellems' decision will also have a major impact in the 9th Congressional District race and, possibly, for the control of Congress. Democrats have already coalesced around former legislator Baron Hill. A divisive three-way primary battle would have given Hill a huge money advantage going into next fall's general election.

"I believe Jean will work hard to capitalize on her two runs and her familiarity with the people of the 9th District," Kellems said. "She can easily be the nominee and win a hard-fought battle with Baron Hill."

"Any time we can avoid a primary battle, the better off we'll be," said Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel.

Not only will the GOP not waste as many resources during the primary, but Leising - should she defeat Bailey - would be in a better position to attract political action committee money in an open seat that will likely draw considerable national attention.

Democrats are emerging for the 1998 races in a much stronger position than anticipated due to a thriving economy and the White House's deflection of ethical problems to date. It sets the stage for a dramatic showdown over

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White House counsel Charles Ruff. "Are there other White House documents in your possession that shed light on this matter that have yet to be turned over?"

Evansville labor leader Roy Mabrey was found dead on his couch - on Labor Day - of natural causes. Mabrey, 55, was elected president of the Central Labor Council of Southern Indiana in 1989 and also served on U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey's staff.

U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer and neighboring Michigan U.S. Rep. Fred Upton have sent a letter to colleagues proposing legislation that would keep the recently passed line item veto in the president's hands even after the budget deficit is gone. "A little noticed provision in the present line item veto law allows the president to use this veto only when there is a federal budget deficit," Roemer and Upton write (Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune). They want to take action now to preserve the line item veto even when there is a surplus.

NIPSCO, the major Northwest Indiana steel producers, and other business leaders are urging U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky to back a proposed four-year moratorium on new federal clean-air standards. "There is

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virtually no scientific evidence at this point to show that this is a worthwhile investment," said Tom McDermott, president of the Northwest Indiana Forum (Russell Pearlman, Munster Times). Visclosky responded, "I'm still looking at all the facts and weighing all the issues. I have not taken a position."

A real race is underway for Clark County sheriff. Two Democrats - Mike Becher and Curtis Wells - a Republican Kelly Harrod have already declared their candidacy (Tim Goebel, Jeffersonville Evening News). Becher lost in 1994 to Dean Markle by 27 votes.

Perhaps, *from page 7*

who can control the U.S. House of Representatives, which has been the incubator for dramatic reforms during the last three years

Both the 9th Congressional District and the anticipated 8th District race between Republican U.S. Rep. John Hostettler and Democratic Evansville City Councilwoman Gail Riecken in Southern Indiana will likely see tens of thousands of dollars in PAC and labor money spent in an effort to control the House.

"I spent the whole spring warning the party about bloody primaries that cost us to lose," said Gilroy. "We can't afford mistakes, so this really helps the ticket."

Kellems was seen by HPR and Washington-based analysts as the candidate with the highest potential give Hill a race. His family roots stretch all along the Ohio River counties for generations and that is the more populated part of the district. While Kellems cited business, personal and political considerations - including that Leising deserves the chance - it is still somewhat disturbing that he would pass up a chance at an open seat in his home district. HPR believes that if Hill wins in 1998, he'll be very hard to unseat.

Can Leising defeat Hill?

Hoosier history offers a better scenario for Leising with this situation. Newt Gingrich, John Brademas and Phil Sharp all ascended to Congress by winning their third races following two defeats.

Republicans point to the 9th District's penchant for voting for Republican presidential candidates and the inroads they've made in a number of contested local offices throughout this sprawling 21-county area. "If she's our nominee, she'll have a leg up just by the fact that she's run twice and she can beat Baron Hill because he's been out of politics for awhile," McDaniel said. "Let's face it, Baron Hill is no Lee Hamilton, who got a lot of Republican votes because he wasn't scary to Republicans on fiscal matters."

With the thought of Gilroy emerging after 1998 as the odds-on favorite to win the 2000 gubernatorial nomination in addition to the improved GOP prospects in the 9th District, McDaniel observed, "This is a win-win situation for us."

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PO Box 20877
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Jack E. Howey
948 Orchid Pl.
Peru, IN 46970