THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"Well, I kinda thought I'd made a decision not to run. But I never said unequivocally I wouldn't run...."

- Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, to HPR's Brian H wey, n whether he'll seek a third term

Newman's '98 race has big implications

Marion County prosecutor's race precursor to '99

INDIANAPOLIS - In October 1994, then-Indiana Republican Chairman Al Hubbard steered crucial money he could have used in the tight 9th CD race against U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton instead to the race for Marion County prosecutor.

It paid off with a stunning, upset win for Republican Scott Newman over Democrat Jeff Modisett. The Marion County prosecutor's office is critical for both parties because it has the potential to prosecute statewide political corruption cases. In fact, Newman has cases pending against Democratic State Rep. Rolland Webber, D-Anderson, and former Republican Ways and Means Chairman Sam Turpin. Newman also was part of an investigation concerning river-boat casinos and highway contracts that had the potential to nick the legacy of former Gov. Evan Bayh.

Four years later, this Marion County race will have huge implications on Indiana politics, ironically a state where in most counties the proseuctor is king and a political heavyweight with few facing serious election challenges. It will probably feature Newman against Modisett protege Joe Champion, who currently works for the Democrat in the AG's office.

Champion is one of a slew of prosecutors who followed Modisett to the Statehouse, leaving Newman with a cadre of inexperienced deputies.

If Newman wins, he becomes the biggest Republican power center in what could be a post-Goldsmith era (see Horserace, page 3). A Newman victory would also restore luster to John Sweezy's tarnished Marion County Republican Party, which has seen a series of embarassments ranging from Goldsmith's 17,000-vote loss in Marion County, to his unsuccessful backing of Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy for lieutenant governor at the 1996 GOP convention, to the debacle surrounding the 10th CD candidacy of William Hudnut at

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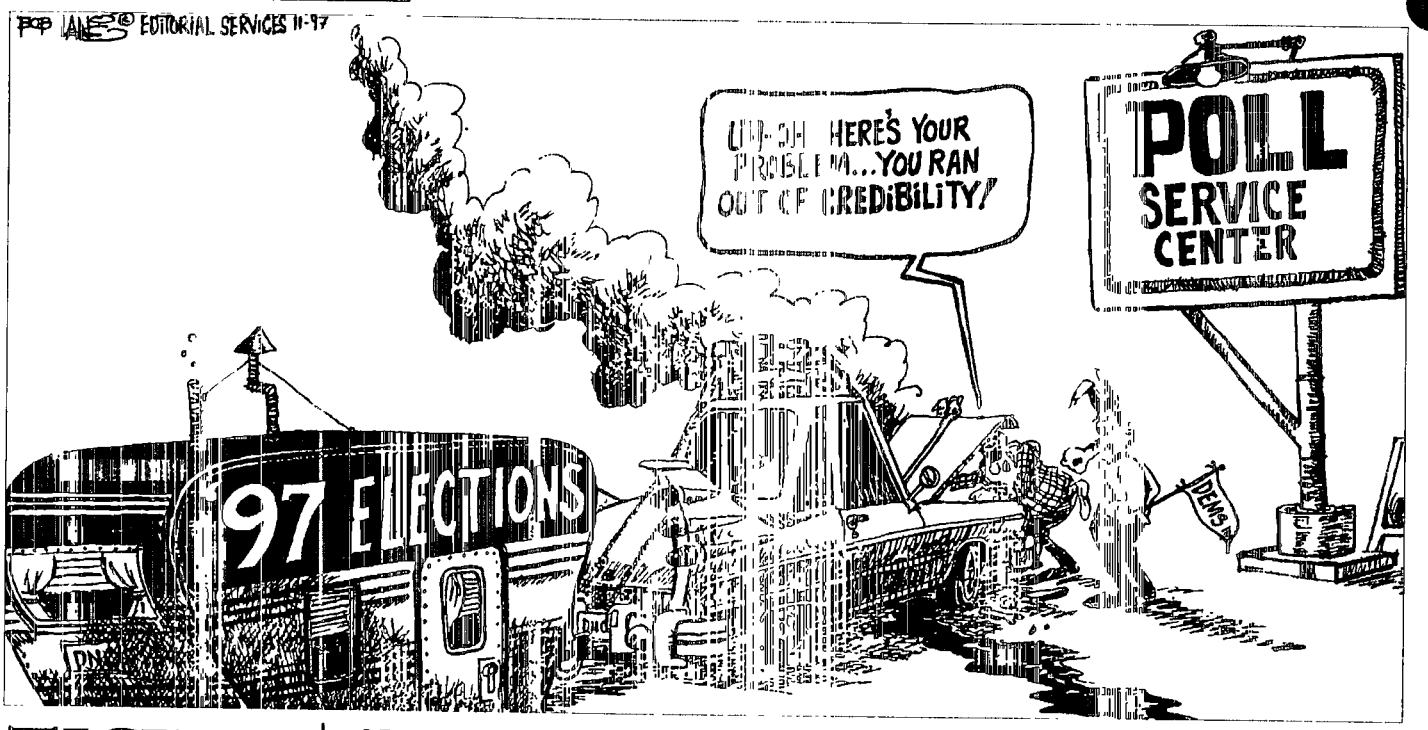
Bob Lang



TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: State Rep. Tom Alevizos, for knowing when to move on. Wonder if anyone in Anderson is listening?

■ ■ ■

State Rep. Tom Alevizos will forgo seeking a fourth term in Indianapolis for a try at LaPorte County prosecutor (Michigan City News-Dispatch). The Democrat said the District 9 seat no longer appeals to him because he wants to spend more time in Michigan City and concentrate on starting a family. Alevizos was disciplined by House Speaker John Gregg earlier this year for bucking the caucus. "I want to step away from

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Newman, from page 1

the '96 slating convention.

A Newman loss would not only be devastating for Sweezy (as well as Newman, obviously), but it would serve as a precursor for the 1999 Indianapolis mayor's race - an office the Democrats haven't won since 1963. Unigov made the mayor's office almost unattainable for the Democrats during the last 30 years, but with a steady out-migration of Republican voters due to poorly performing Indianapolis Public Schools, a good Democratic candidate might have a chance in '99.

Newman has several problems to deal with on his way to re-election. The biggest is his handling of the Meridian Street police brawl, the event that has already helped sink a Goldsmith gubernatorial campaign. Newman resisted calls for appointing a special prosecutor for the case. It ended in a hung jury a month ago. A Teleresearch Poll revealed that 85 percent of the public felt the four police officers on trial were guilty and 73 percent favored a retrial. Instead, a plea bargain was struck that will force two of the officers off the force. None will receive additional jail time.

Another pitfall for Newman was his office's handling of the Bryan Bierod case. Bierod was an IPD officer who propositioned eight women drivers for sex in lieu of going to jail. At least two of them had sexual intercourse. In a plea agreement, Bierod pled guilty to bribery charges, while sexual assault and sexual misconduct charges were dropped. Bierod served a total of 30 days in jail.

Both of these cases are ideal for Democratic exploitation in a TV ad campaign. With Republicans already experiencing a significant gender gap with the so-called soccer moms, and with little credibility in many minority precincts, that combination could spell trouble unless the Marion County Republican organization is on top of its game.

Another high-profile obstacle course could be the Turpin trial, scheduled for this spring. Republicans sources tell HPR that Newman's office has bungled the filing in that case and it may have to be refiled. A loss there could be embarrassing and potentially devastating.

Newman is a savvy politician, a good fund raiser and is showing a willingness to distance himself from Goldsmith.

If Champion upsets Newman, that would be a watershed event for Marion County Democrats.

Goldsmith ponders future; Pam Carter won't run for Indianapolis mayor in '99

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: At the end of an interview HPR Publisher Brian Howey conducted recently for *NUVO Newsweekly*, he asked Mayor Stephen Goldsmith: "Here's the political question, since your name is bubbling up in all kinds of political rumors. Assess your political station at the moment and your potential options. How's that for latitude?"

Goldsmith: If I knew, I wouldn't tell you.

Howey: I figured you wouldn't.

Goldsmith: I don't know. I haven't done a poll. I don't know what my political situation is. I also don't know what I'm doing. I like to stay active. I'm trying to pay attention to the city. I haven't been much around the state recently.

Howey: Have you ruled out a re-election for mayor?

Goldsmith: No, but I never intended to run for mayor. But I never said unequivocally I wouldn't run for mayor.

Howey: When do you think you have to make that decision?

Goldsmith: I kinda thought I made a decision not to run. But I never said unequivocally I wouldn't run. When I first was elected I said I thought two terms would be sufficient. What do I know? If I'm going to run, I have to decide obviously in the next year and a half. Probably sometime during the first half of next year.

Howey: Do you think Gov. O'Bannon can be beaten? Would you want to give that another try?

Goldsmith: I haven't really given any thought to running for governor. Anybody can be beat. Whether Frank can be beaten in 2000 I think it's really too early to tell.

Howey: OK. That was as vague as I thought it would be. ✍

■ ■ ■

■ **1999 Indianapolis Mayor:** Former AG Pam Carter will not make this race. HPR has learned that she will take a vice president/counsel job with Cummins Engine in Columbus. That leaves former Marion County Democratic Chairman Kip Tew and former Bayh chief of staff Bart Peterson as the leading Democratic contenders. Tew has already said there would be no contentious Democratic primary. A number of Democratic insiders tell HPR that given the choice between Tew and Peterson, many would opt for Peterson. They feel he has good ties with the business community since his father developed the Castleton Mall area on Indy's northside. Peterson also has good fund-raising abilities with his Evan Bayh connections. His detractors say his biggest drawback is that he is "bland."

Tew's biggest liability appears to be his boyish good looks. At a recent Democratic seminar, Mary Beth Schneider of the Star/News quipped that Tew looked like an 18-year-old. But Tew can claim credit for helping Julia Carson win the 10th CD and O'Bannon carry Marion County in 1996. He is an energetic speaker and would be a good campaigner.

HPR suspects Peterson will emerge as the consensus candidate early next year.

On the Republican side, Tew's boss at PSI Energy, former Lt. Gov. John Mutz, is becoming a subtle, conspicuous presence of late. For instance, Mutz is appearing in PSI Energy advertisements in the *Indianapolis Business Journal.* The word in GOP circles is that Mutz is seasoned, well-liked and would be a safe choice. Potential supporters would like to see Mutz lay out a game plan that goes beyond "safe."

Other potential candidates are State Sen. Murry Clark, whose father Alex served a term as mayor in the 1950s, and City-County Councilman Toby McClamroch.

If Goldsmith does, indeed, move on, HPR's money would be on a Peterson-Mutz race. ✍

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the partisan politics of the State Legislature," he said. Alivizos said he will make an official announcement later. He joins a field that may ultimately consist of as many as five candidates.

BURKHART IN AT KOKOMO: As HPR reported last month, Republican Karen Buyer Burkhart is expected to replace resigned State Rep. Jon Padfield in Kokomo. She is the sister of U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. GOP sources tell HPR Burkhart has been a successful Mary Kay salesperson and has been a proven fund-raiser for her brother's congressional campaigns. Padfield resigned because he took a job in Columbus.

HELLMANN AFTERMATH: At least four Democrats, including Vigo County Councilman Mark Blade, former Vigo councilman John Scott, Terre Haute Councilman Norm Loudermilk and Charles Hendricks of Vermillion County are lining up to win the caucus to replace State Sen. Robert Hellmann. Keep your eyes on Blade. In the primary, local steamfitter union official Bill Fenton is moving into the district and will challenge the caucus winner in next May's Democratic primary.

SHERIFF AFTER WEBBER: Two-term Democratic Madison

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Democrats target Hoosier CD races; GOP says it highlights weaknesses

By Mark Schoeff Jr.
Howey Political Report

CONGRESS WATCH

"This will be a local-issue driven campaign. National exposure won't affect local issues...."
- Baron Hill

Now that she has been recognized the national Democratic campaign organization, Gail Riecken wants to prove she's worthy of the hype.

Riecken, a candidate challenging Rep. John Hostettler in the 8th District, and Baron Hill, who is running for the 9th District seat being vacated by Rep. Lee Hamilton, have been singled out by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) as two of the party's top recruits for the 1998 election. The DCCC featured Riecken and Hill in a late October satellite press conference beamed from the campus of Indiana University to dozens of reporters in Washington.

"We're looking at 50 races around the country," said DCCC spokeswoman Stephanie Cohen. The two Hoosier candidates have built momentum by entering their races early.

Cohen said Riecken was selected because she is "a strong candidate against a vulnerable Republican." Hill has been able to raise a lot of money and put together a strong organization. In addition, he won the 9th District in his 1990 Senate campaign against Sen. Dan Coats, Cohen said.

In her race, Riecken, a member of the Evansville City Council, wants to put $100,000 in her campaign coffers by Dec. 31 to start fulfilling the expectations the DCCC has set.

Riecken, who didn't become a candidate until after the last Federal Election Commission (FEC) campaign funding disclosure deadline in June, wouldn't reveal how close she is to her target. "Our major fund-raisers are scheduled over the next four weeks. They will bring in the balance of the dollars."

She has begun to look outside of her home county, Vanderburgh, to the other 12 counties in the district for fund-raising support. That means spending upwards of four hours daily on the phone. "We're constantly making new contacts," she said.

In the 8th District, the incumbent's camp thinks that the national Democratic focus on Riecken is a dubious honor. Several potentially strong candidates, including state legislators, turned down entreaties from the party to take on Hostettler, said Curt Smith, the congressman's chief of staff. Riecken also may face opposition in the spring primary.

"You've got to take their crowing with a grain of salt," said Smith.

As of Nov. 17, the Democrats have two more seats to hold while they try to overcome the 11-seat GOP margin in the House. Reps. Ron Dellums and Vic Fazio, both of California, announced their retirements. Democratic Rep. Paul McHale, of Pennsylvania, recently declared he is retiring. Democratic open seats, including the 9th District in Indiana, now total 15.

"The fact that they have to target this seat says more about their weaknesses than their strength," Terry Nelson, field director for the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), said of the Democrats shining the spotlight on Indiana 9. "It prevents them from going after other seats they would have to win" to achieve a majority in Congress.

The Democrats also may find themselves at a financial disadvantage compared with their Republican opponents. A study by Mike Berman, president of the Duberstein Group in Washington, shows that NRCC has raised more than twice the amount the DCCC has through the first six months of 1997 -- $14.5 million to $6.8 million. The campaign committees can use the funds for directly promoting candidates and for coordinated expenditures, which involve efforts such as voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives. The committees can give about $65,000 directly to a candidate. The coordinated expenditures are not

counted toward that limit.

Another financial liability for the Democrats involves the Democratic National Committee, which is $15 million in debt and could not match the Republicans in supporting their candidates in special elections this year.

Chris Sautter, a Washington Democratic political consultant, dismisses worries about fund-raising difficulties. He said that Democrats were substantially out spent in 1996 and still picked up nine House seats.

Regardless of whether they face financial shortfalls as a party, the Democrats are playing defense in the 9th District, according to a woman running for the Republican nomination. "They're very concerned and they should be," said former state senator Jean Leising. "We've got a great opportunity. Baron Hill is not a Lee Hamilton and they understand that." Leising ran against Hamilton in 1994 and 1996.

National recognition for his race may help him with fund-raising but won't decide the election, Hill said. "Hordes of volunteers who express interest (in the campaign) is what makes you a strong candidate. This will be a local-issue-driven campaign. National exposure won't affect local issues."

Areas he will emphasize include education and job training. The key is "to give children an opportunity so they can make it in the new global economy," said Hill, a Seymour resident and a financial consultant at Merrill Lynch in Indianapolis.

Hill has a substantial fund-raising lead on Leising. Hill said he has about $225,000 in the bank. As of her June 30 FEC filing, Leising had about $11,000. She said she hopes to raise $100,000 by the end of the year. Although Hill and Leising could face primary competition, she sounded confident she can catch up with Hill's fund-raising. She cited as a strength her issues, which include tax and regulatory relief, reducing government spending and opposing abortion and gun control. She also believes she will benefit from her campaign experience and contributor base in the district.

"Unions and trial lawyers come out before fiscally conservative groups," Leising said in comparing her donors to Hill's. "Baron will be strongly supported by the unions, and that's not a positive for him in this district."

Hill countered that more than 70 percent of his contributions come from individuals. "The overwhelming majority is from people in the district, and I'm proud of that."

In the 8th District, the tables are turned. The Republican, Hostettler, would appear to have the lead in fund-raising, with $76,000 in cash on hand as of the June FEC filing.

But Riecken pointed to the DCCC backing as evidence that her efforts are bearing fruit. "It confirms that we're out there working and people are listening to the message," she said. The themes she is stressing include her many years of leadership and civic service in Evansville community and her ability to build consensus by bringing diverse groups of people together. While stressing "family supporting wages," strong neighborhoods and environmental protection, she accuses Hostettler of being out of touch with his constituents.

"His priorities are more narrow and deal with his personal ideology," said Riecken.

Smith countered that Hostettler pursues a mainstream agenda that puts the 8th District at the top. He cited the congressman's efforts to provide highway funding to the district, including money for extending I-69 to Evansville, and his efforts to make the Department of Commerce reconsider the closing of an Evansville weather station. In addition, he worked to balance the budget and cut taxes. He demonstrated his independence from House Speaker Newt Gingrich by opposing his election as speaker. Hostettler is "doing the right things for Southern Indiana," said Smith.

"It will be a hard-fought contest, and we're looking forward to it," Smith said of the 1998 election. Hostettler won his 1996 race with less than 51 percent of the vote. ✍

Schoeff is HPR's Washington correspondent.

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County Sheriff Scott Mellenger is preparing to take on indicted State Rep. Rolland Webber, whose trial is scheduled for next June. Mellenger is described as very popular. Anderson Democrats tell HPR they believe Webber will probably not seek re-election. He was indicted earlier this year on failing to report legislative per diem payments on his income taxes.

HAMILTON V. SAUNDERS: Freshman GOP State Rep. Tom Saunders will get a challenge from New Castle Chrysler HS teacher Donnie Hamilton who has been active in Democratic politics. Party officials describe Hamilton as "another Doug Kinser - same type of demeanor." Hamilton's uncle was a two-term Henry County sheriff. The candidate has a labor background and is an author, writing the book "Hoosier Temples" about the state's historic high school basketball gyms.

BUDAK FOES EMERGE: Democrats are positioning Donna Kavanagh of Long Beach to challenge State Rep. Mary Kay Budak in HD 20. Kavanagh is an actress, an independent film-maker and producer with good labor ties, important in this LaPorte and St. Joseph County district where Budak has fared well

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with labor voters. Kavanagh has been an active fund-raiser for former LaPorte Mayor Elmo Gonzalez. Her primary opponent will Tony Underly of St. Joseph County, who has challenged Budak before.

FINCHER TAKES ON McCLAIN: Democratic Logansport City Councilman Mike Fincher is expected to challenge State Rep. Rick McClain in HD 24. Democrats note that AG Jeff Modisett carried the district in 1996.

REMATCH FOR LIGGETT: Republican Sam Shoemaker is going to seek a rematch with State Rep. Ron Liggett in HD 33 in the Redkey area. Liggett defeated Shoemaker easily in 1996.

THREE-WAY BASH IN HD 56? A possible three-way Republican race for the right to face State Rep. Dick Bodiker is emerging, Wayne County sources tell HPR. Dick Hamm is seeking a rematch, but may be contested for the nomination by Chris Dixon and Ken Paust.

DUNCAN-GOBLE REMATCH: Former Democratic State Rep. Ed Goble will challenge Republican State Rep. Cleo Duncan in HD 67. Duncan upset Goble in 1994.

KLINKER OPPONENT: State

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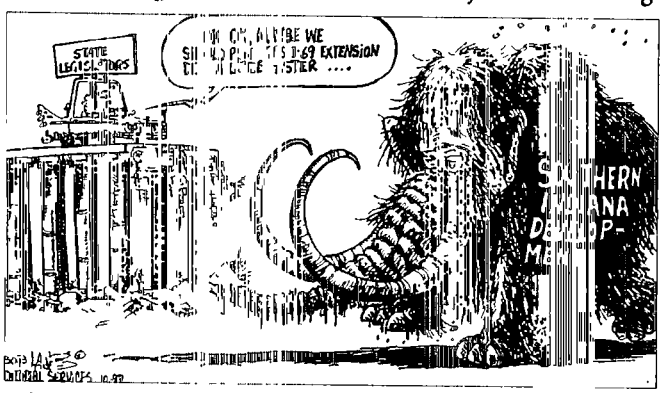
COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Dick Robinson, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* - It's difficult to imagine Gov. Frank O'Bannon's administration with problems, but there are signs the honeymoon has ended. The storm clouds over the Statehouse have been swept away rather than allowed to gather. Nevertheless, the administration's unhappy camper count seems larger than would be expected this early in a first term. It's normal for bureaucrats and officials to grumble with changes in the administration. O'Bannon has his detractors. Every governor has 'em. With this administration, the grumbling has started earlier, gotten louder and spread farther than what seems normal. The big complaint is that O'Bannon has allowed a small inner circle of advisers, perhaps three or four, to actually call the day-to-day shots. O'Bannon is not out of the loop, but the inner circle forms a barrier to keep many staffers at arm's length from the governor. Another concern is that insiders and political friends have a leg up in dealings with the state. This isn't new. It happens whenever an administration changes. However, it seems to be different this time. Some top state employes have left or will soon, because they have concerns about who gets what treatment. Also, the watchers are interested in which law firms will be handling the lucrative special jobs. People are saying O'Bannon does everything while looking over his shoulder at Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy.



Chuck Malloy, *New Albany Tribune* Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy was in town the other day to talk about her intention to seek re-election. It was not exactly blockbuster political news, since maybe 10 percent of the population knows what a secretary of state does. Besides, Gilroy has made no secrets about her political plans. Given her record in office, it's no wonder why Republicans are high on her future. Democrats will be hard pressed to find a worthy challenger.

Stuart Rothenberg, *Roll Call* - While each of the last three elections has been a referendum on a major theme - George Bush and the economy in 1992, Bill Clinton and his tax hike in 1994, and Newt Gingrich and Medicare in 1996 - the 1998 elections are likely to turn on something much less dramatic: turnout. Turnout always plummets in midterms. That's because many idependents and weak partisans drop out of the electorate without the appeal of a presidential race to motivate them. But next year, the parties may face a slightly different problem. With few fundamental issues currently dividing the electorate or the parties, the public satisfied with the economy and the direction of the country, and Washington seemingly less relevant to people's problems, Republican and Democratic insiders alike are wondering whether core voters in both areas will bother to participate in next year's elections.

John Ketzenberger, *Marion Chronicle-Tribune* - Watch Indiana GOP Chairman Mike McDaniel, a self-described Switzerland when it comes to primaries, closely in the coming months. He may intervene this year when he opted not to in the nasty 1996 primary between gubernatorial candidates Rex Early and Steve Goldsmith. The federal donation limits are the difference.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

The ol' code of conduct; a different twist in '98?

INDIANAPOLIS - During the Republican tidal wave year of 1994, State Rep. Candy Morris won re-election by a 2,301 vote margin - a 60 percent landslide - over a relatively unknown Democrat.

So when 1996 rolled around, her 94th Indiana House District in northwest Marion County didn't appear to be a battleground for control of the lower legislative chamber.

Her opponent that year was a Democratic party activist, a computer programmer and retired high school teacher, Martin Hinman.

But when the votes were tallied up on Election Night, Rep. Morris (remarried, she is now Rep. Marendt), eked out a victory by a mere 810 votes. It was a crucial victory, because the Indiana House for the second time in its history was tied at 50/50.

What happened? How did a race that was on no one's radar get so close?

Hinman ran an unusual campaign. He used his own money to run a neighborhood-oriented campaign, along with some newspaper advertising. His theme was, "This time, vote for yourself, not for special interest groups which use your tax dollars only for their benefit."

It was a message that resonated with the common voter.

Hinman explained, "If you can reach people and tell them what you stand for, what the Democratic Party stands for and they realize the Democratic Party is on their side, they'll vote Democratic."

By early October 1996, pollsters for both the Republican and Democratic House caucuses realized that Morris was in trouble. Hinman began to get the drift that he was being quite effective when, as he put it, "Important Democrats who ignored me before started wanting to talk."

The Republican campaign committee, meanwhile, resorted to a good old-fashioned smear campaign. Hinman, they said, was a convicted felon. It was a charge the Republicans passed on to me as a political analyst and columnist. It was a charge that began being passed by word of mouth throughout the 94th District.

But it wasn't true.

Hinman had been involved in a shooting years before by a man he said had approached him in a threatening manner and had broken into his car as he was parking it in his driveway. He was not charged in the incident, and later won a civil wrongful death case against him.

But in 1996, the smear prevailed.

"Without it, I believe I would have won," Hinman said. "It was effective, what they did. I'm not saying Candy did it, but it did come from the Republicans.

"And there was no way I could respond to it."

One month before an election at the legislative level, there is a history of smears, lies and unproven allegations perpetrated by both parties. Get together with the old-time operatives and they'll tell you outrageous stories about how lies have won elections.

The best whopper in recent times came in 1994, when Republicans were waging an all-out assault on the welfare state. In a number of legislative races, the Republicans said that welfare mothers were hiring limousines to drive them to corner convenience stores to buy Huggies. It became the infamous "limos for diapers" fib. When pressed, the Republican House Campaign Committee couldn't substantiate a single instance where a limo was used to procure diapers.

It worked, though. I remember at midnight on Election Night '94 hearing the stunned jubilation in Republican Headquarters when House Speaker Michael K. Phillips was defeated down in Boonville, giving them control of the

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Rep. Sheila Klinker will face a challenge from Republican Jim Julian in the Tippecanoe County area.

KRAHULIK EYES MARENDT: Trial attorney David Krahulik is preparing to seek the HD 94 nomination for the right to face State Rep. Candy (Morris) Marendt. Krahulik is from the Washington Twp. side of this Indianapolis district and is the son of retired Indiana Supreme Court Justice John Krahulik. Also in the race is 1996 nominee Martin Hinman (see Perhaps We Wander, this page). Another candidate who had considered the race, Jeb Barton, is now out. Democrats note that Pike Township has gradually become more Democratic. Bill Clinton carried Pike Township over Bob Dole in 1996 by 1,500 votes.

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton told NBC News Tuesday night that AG Janet Reno's decision not to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Clinton-Gore fund raising phone calls was a matter of her protecting her bosses. Two weeks ago, Burton was embarrassed when his Government Reform and Oversight Committee posted Oval Office fax machine number on the Internet as part of a deposition from Dick Morris. "It's a lousy thing to do , but it's not atypical of the hamhanded

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way the committee does business," said White House press secretary Mike McCurry (Roll Call).

GOP Senate Candidate Peter Rusthoven hosted former Secretary of Education William Bennett at an Indianapolis rally Tuesday to discuss education issues.

State Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, calls the Lake County property tax assessment controversy like this: "There is no rhyme or reason for this to have been going on this long. It seems there has been an absence of communication and ineptness among officials."

Perhaps, *from page 7*

House.

The question to be raised at this point - a little less than a year from the next election - is whether anything can be done to keep the smears out of Hoosier politics.

Perhaps not, other than to rely on diligent news media to demand substantiation when a nasty ad runs or a whisper campaign begins.

But there could be other ways to try and rein in the lurid campaign tactics.

During the gubernatorial race between Stephen Goldsmith and Frank O'Bannon in 1996, there was talk of a "Campaign Code of Conduct." It started with the Democrats, was bounced over to the Republicans, and back again, and it never got anywhere.

I've seen other code of conduct efforts in the past, usually used by one campaign over another to try and stake out the high ground. If it isn't accepted, the initiating candidate can say, "Aha! Moral leper!"

Here's a suggestion: Wouldn't it be interesting if a group of Indiana citizens - say, the Hoosier Alliance for Fair Play - got together in early 1996 and hammered out a bipartisan Campaign Code of Conduct?

The key would be to find respected citizens from all regions of the state who don't have a special interest to defend or an axe to grind. All they would want is to give candidates a chance to run without fear of unwarranted assaults on their integrity.

Once approved, it could be presented to all campaigns for acceptance.

In late October 1998, the alliance could issue a report telling voters which campaigns had accepted the code of conduct. The alliance could also investigate violations in the code of conduct in campaigns where things get out of hand. The alliance could go into those markets and report their findings to the voters. They could give their report to the Associated Press and columnists and hold press conferences in all the major media markets.

The idea is to make sure the political cowboys and morally vacuous understand that slimeball campaigns might have to pay a big price. With the House currently tied at 50/50, the stakes are high.

People get the kind of government they deserve.

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