

# THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“We came. We met. We went home....”

- Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton

n what the Indiana General Assembly accomplished this year after talks of a tax increase collapsed.

## What happens if the Price is really right?

### HPR sniffs upsets brewing in GOP money void

INDIANAPOLIS - HPR has tried its darndest not to take John Price's Senate campaign seriously. Going into this campaign, Price's Republican opponents Peter Rusthoven and Paul Helmke seemed to have the pedigree, appeal, experience in government, and the proper sheen and veneer for one of them to get the nomination.

Yet, midway through February, there is a void in this campaign and there is John Price, the defender of morality against the evil Bob and Tom, just licking his chops.

“This race is surreal,” Price said as he prepared to debate Helmke and Rusthoven at the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis last week. “Because of the Bayh phenomena, there's no money coming in. That means there will be little media. That's how our campaign can be a success,” Price said.

Price said he has to get the right groups to the polls. He has to motivate the pro-life movement to go to the polls.

“Look,” Price said with a sort of stern firmness, “you have to identify your people and get them to the polls. Whoever moves a few thousand either way can win. We can do that.”

Price, with just \$2,944 cash on hand, trails Rusthoven (\$114,095) and Helmke (\$30,037) in the year-end reports. At this stage in a U.S. Senate race, particularly a competitive Republican one here in Indiana, those are minuscule amounts.

It prompted U.S. Sen. Dan Coats to observe on Tuesday, “There is no front-runner.” And Coats told HPR he does not plan to endorse any of the three candidates, ending two months of speculation that he might give his imprimatur to Rusthoven.

IU pollster Brian Vargus believes the primary turnout will be small - in the 350,000 range, but possibly less. A lack of money and small turnout means the conditions are right for a severe upset. Factor in the strategies. Helmke will try to motivate the Northeastern

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**Bob Lang**



**TICKER  
T A P E**

**PLAY OF THE WEEK:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson for her Wednesday visit to Martinsville High School, where she will talk about racial and cultural diversity. Martinsville was placed on athletic probation by the IHSAA and Conference Indiana for fans and boy's basketball team members directing racial slurs against Bloomington North before and during a game in January. Carson's office announced on Tuesday that she would speak at MHS to "convey her confidence in them and the emerging leadership they represent for future generations."

■■■■  
**LEGISLATIVE HIJINKS: Indiana**

*Continued on page 3*

**Price**, *from page 1*

Indiana bloc most familiar with him in the Fort Wayne media market

Rusthoven did and is doing again a magnificent job on the Lincoln Day circuit and has scads of Republican Party endorsements. And Price has the fleet of church buses; the folks who go to church each and every Sunday and once a year gather in the downtowns of Indiana's largest cities, holding hands and holding anti-abortion placards.

With Rusthoven's and Helmke's potential inability to reach the mainstream masses with TV and mailers, the true battle of this campaign may well come within the circles that constitute the pro-life movement, which is Price's core of support.

In recent years, the pro-life movement seems to have ovulated, appearing stronger, then weaker, then stronger. For example, Wendall Brane's high profile rescue movement which used to dominate the news in the Fort Wayne market has withered away. Other movements like opponents of gay rights ordinances in Lafayette and the Christian Coalition seem, at times, transparent.

**Remember Witwer**

Until you recall June 1996 when George Witwer stunned the GOP establishment by winning a floor fight for the lieutenant governor's nomination. Many of Witwer's people are Price people in this race. Price doesn't need a lot of money to get 100,000 to 20,000 of that type of voter to the polls.

Witwer's floor fight victory - with the help of Mark Souder's top political people and former legislator Mitch Harper - is vastly different than winning a primary. Yet Indiana is rife with examples of the outer right prevailing. In 1992, former state Auditor Charlie Loos had the endorsement of every 9th CD Republican chairman, and still lost to Michael Bailey, who then proceeded to make national news by running TV ads showing aborted fetuses.

**Pierson, Bailey upsets**

That same year in the 4th CD, a quirky, gadfly pro-lifer named Chuck Pierson rocked the GOP establishment in Northeastern Indiana by winning the primary. Some attributed it to people confusing him with Linley Pearson. But then came the stories of how Chuck Pierson had slowly but surely worked the pro-life, and gun

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# 1998 Racing Form

## Congressional update; two more open House seats

No one gives Democrats a chance to retake control of the Indiana Senate, which is currently controlled by the Republicans by a 31-19 margin. The best Democrats can hope for is to make incremental steps to close the gap for future elections. There are three seats they have a realistic chance at taking - those held by Republicans Sandy Dempsey, David Ford and John Waterman.

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

## HORSE R A C E

### Indiana Legislative Races

Senate District 1: **R Primary:** Sen. Sandy Dempsey. **D Primary:** Hammond Councilman Frank Mrvan. **Geography:** Lake County. **HPR General Forecast:** Dempsey v. Mrvan. **1994 results:** Mrvan 13,114, Dempsey 13,060. **1998 Forecast:** Blink at those 1994 election results and you'd think Frank Mrvan would be a state senator and not a city councilman from Hammond. But this was one of the most controversial elections in Senate history. After a lengthy recount, the Senate voted down party lines to seat the pro-choice Dempsey over the pro-life Democrat. Adding to the controversy was Dempsey's erratic behavior during the early part of her term. She's gotten better, but both parties and both sides of the abortion debate will be dumping resources into this race. With Gov. Frank O'Bannon pouring highway money into Lake County and visiting often, we believe Mrvan will return to the Senate, although it could be close. **Status:** *Leans D.*

Senate District 19: **R Primary:** Sen. David Ford. **D Primary:** Mark Townsend. **Geography:** Grant, Blackford counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Ford v. Townsend. **1994 results:** Ford 18,813, Macklin 16,776. **1998 Forecast:** Ford was swept into this swing Senate seat with help from the '94 GOP tsunami, defeating the popular Larry Macklin. Democrats will counter this time with Mark Townsend, son of 1984 gubernatorial candidate and former State Sen. Wayne Townsend and his lovely influential wife. Both parties will fully fund both races. Ford has proven to be a capable senator with a good reputation. Townsend is a true legacy who might expect a little help from Evan Bayh, who used the '84 gubernatorial campaign to tour the state and introduce himself to party regulars and the news media. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

Senate District 26: **R Primary:** Fred Wenger. **D Primary:** Sen. Allie Craycraft. **Geography:** Delaware County. **HPR General Forecast:** Wenger v. Craycraft. **1994 Results:** Craycraft 17,360, Wenger 16,334. **1998 Forecast:** Wenger opted out of a 1994 House re-election race and instead tried to knock off Craycraft. Wenger had established a reputation as a giant killer when he upset Rep. Billy Linville in 1992. While the '94 Republican tsunami lifted most GOP boats, it didn't help Wenger, who lost this by a little more than 1,000 votes. Right now the money is with Craycraft, although the race will be close. But there is a scenario that if President Clinton is fending off impeachment, Wenger might cash in this time. Watch this one closely. **Status:** *Leans D.*

Senate District 39: **R Primary:** Sen. John Waterman. **D Primary:** Rod Hasler. **Geography:** Sullivan, Greene, Owen and Monroe counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Waterman v. Hasler. **1994 Results:** Waterman 17,846, Doll 17,365. **1998 Forecast:** Waterman clearly benefited from the '94 Republican landslide with a 500-vote win over Democrat Morrie Doll. The former Sullivan County sheriff is a proven vote-getter who will be tough to unseat. But Democrats have the perfect counter, Rod Hasler, cousin of State Rep. Brian Hasler. Waterman has been controversial, bucking the GOP on prevailing wage and insurance reform and that might help him in this old mining district. He is also sponsored legislation this year aimed against the Kinsey Sex Institute at Indiana University. That could be a mighty interesting backdrop when placed in the context of President Clinton's sex problems in Washington. If that kind of national dynamic emerges, Waterman will probably survive. If it doesn't, this race could go down to the wire. **Status:** *Toss-Up*

## TICKER T A P E

is sitting on a \$1.6 billion surplus and none of it is headed back to taxpayers. House Speaker John Gregg has announced that the legislature will conclude on Feb. 27. While House Ways and Means Chairman Pat Bauer and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Larry Borst sniped at each other, Gov. Frank O'Bannon didn't seem too worried. "We win if we move forward without a tax cut because it puts us in a stronger position to go into next year's budget cycle." Now there's a quote that will likely end up in a GOP House Caucus campaign ad next fall.

House Speaker Paul Mannweiler told the Bloomington Herald-Times' Steve Hinnfield that Democrats can run away from the tax cuts, "but you cannot hide from this issue." Mannweiler added, "Basically the governor is missing in action on this issue."

House Speaker John Gregg told the Hoosier State Press Association, "If we're going to have major tqx restructuring and changes in Indiana, it's going to take the governor to lead it" (Bloomington Herald-Times). "When his commission comes back with its changes, the governor would be able to ... tweak it, change it. But he's literally got to go out and sell all you folks."

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## Legislative Open Seats

- 1 - Ron Tabaczynski
- 10 - Esther Wilson
- 37 - Rolland Webber
- 84th - Phil Warner
- 73 - Dennis Heeke

## Still Wavering

- 9 - Tom Alevizos

## Rematches

- HD 34th - Vanleer v. Adams
- HD 46th - Lohr v. Tincher
- HD 80th - Becker v. GaQuinta
- HD 67th - Goble v. Duncan
- HD 94th - Hinman v. Marendt
- SD 1 - Dempsey v. Mrvan
- SD 26 Wenger v. Craycraft

House District 1: **R Primary:** Open **D Primary:** Linda Lawson, Peter Katic. **Geography:** Hammond, Lake County. **HPR General Forecast:** Lawson. **1991 results:** Tabaczynski (D) 6,614 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Tabaczynski (D) 11,860 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Former Rep. Peter Katic files to reclaim seat he gave up in 1986 to become a judge in Hammond. Katic lost a race for Lake County Commissioner in 1996. He'll face Hammond PD Capt. Linda Lawson, the first female on the force. She is also a member of the Hammond School Board. Kathleen Pucalik declined to run. Turnout will decide an interesting Lawson v. Katic primary battle. This is a seat vacated by Rep. Ron Tabaczynski. **Status:** Solid D.

House District 9: **R Primary:** Jeff Tucker **D Primary:** Scott Pelath, Dennis Matheny, Rep. Tom Alevizos. **Geography:** Michigan City, LaPorte County. **HPR General Forecast:** Pelath v. Tucker. **1994 results:** Alevizos (D) 11,202 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Alevizos 15,424 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** If Alevizos runs in Democratic primary, this could be a donnybrook. If not, Pelath prevails. Unknown Republican files. **Status:** Solid D.

House District 50: **R Primary:** Kent Maxwell, Scott Darley, Rodney Putt, Mary Blanford. **D Primary:** Jerry Schwartz. **Geography:** Huntington and Whitley counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Maxwell v. "Surprise". **1994 Results:** Stephan (R) 13,418, Yingst 5,392. **1996 Results:** Stephan 15,856, B. Yingst 5,855. **1998 Forecast:** State Rep. Dan Stephan is calling it quits. Democrats say there will be a "surprise" here on Feb. 20. Dr. Gary Dillon still not sure if he'll run and if he does, in what party. We see Huntington County Councilman Kent Maxwell as the likely GOP nominee. **Status:** Leans R.

House District 30: **R Primary:** Rep. Karen Burkhart. **D Primary:** Ron Herrell, Jim Brannon, Mildred Bertram. **Geography:** Kokomo, Howard County. **HPR General Forecast:** Burkhart v. Herrell. **1994 Results:** Padfield (R) 8,589, Howard 7,363. **1996 Results:** Padfield 10,775, Herrell 9,860. **1998 Forecast:** Democratic field clears for Ron Herrell. That will save money for the Democrat to take on Burkhart, who is serving the rest of Jon Padfield's term. Herrell did not distinguish himself as a candidate in '96 (he went elk hunting during the homestretch of the campaign). Burkhart is the favorite. **Status:** Leans R.

## Indiana Congressional Races

U.S. Senate: **R Primary:** Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke, Peter Rusthoven. **D Primary:** Evan Bayh. **HPR General Forecast:** Toss-Up v. Bayh. **1992 Results:** Coats 1,267,972, Hogsett 900,148. **1998 Forecast:** We'll be watching closely to see what themes Evan Bayh strikes during his announcement speech on Thursday as well as how he handles questions about President Clinton from the news media. Republican Peter Rusthoven is attempting to force Bayh to stake out positions on Clinton, school choice and the global warming treaty. John Price is calling for Clinton's impeachment. Paul Helmke is taking a wait and see attitude, which might be prudent, but might not be playing to the choir like Price is. None of the Republicans will have a lot of resources prior to the primary, which makes it a bit of a crap shoot (see pages 1 and 2). We still don't see a Republican "front-runner" emerging. Granted Rusthoven has an honor roll of Republican party leaders, but ask Rex Early and Charlie Loos what good that did. Keep an eye on Price. If the turnout is minuscule and he gets the church buses rolling, it could be the most stunning primary upset since Chuck Pierson and Michael Bailey won the 4th and 9th CD nominations in '92 with Bailey using the same tactics that Price is contemplating. **Status:** Likely D.

Congressional District 1: **R Primary:** Mike Petyo, Mark J. Leyva. **D Primary:** U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, Cy Huerter. **Geography:** Northern Lake, Porter County. **HPR General Forecast:** Visclosky. **1994 results:** Visclosky 68,612, Larson 52,920. **1996 Results:** Visclosky 132,430, Petyo (R) 55,205, Crass (L) 3,122. **1998 Forecast:** This is the Democrats' safest CD. Visclosky has \$79,748 cash on hand and no one else is close. **Status:** Solid D.

Congressional District 2: **R Primary:** U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. **D Primary:** New Castle Mayor Sherman Boles. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** McIntosh v. Boles. **1994 results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 75,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Forecast:** McIntosh has a \$550,000 spending lead over Boles. *Roll Call* has announced McIntosh is now leader of the House Republican mavericks, meaning that Boles won't have much luck labeling him a Newtoid. Boles agrees with McIntosh on the congressman's pet issue: eliminating the marriage penalty. Cash on hand: McIntosh \$576,469, Boles \$42,809. **Status:** Solid R.

Congressional District 3: **R Primary:** Dan Holtz. **D Primary:** U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer. **Geography:** South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Northern Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Holtz v. Roemer. **1994 results:**

Roemer 72,497, Burkett 58,787. **1996 Results:** Roemer 114,381, Zakas (R) 80,748, Taylor (L) 2,331. **1998 Forecast:** Republican Dan Holtz figured to be the '98 front-runner a long time ago and yet has only \$9,225 raised, compared to \$180,608 for Roemer. That has to be deflating for Republicans. Of course, HPR remembers when Al Hubbard was steaming at Souder, McIntosh and Hostettler, who had only \$30,000 among them in June 1994 and all of them went on to out-raise their opponents and win during the Republican tsunami. Holtz better learn fast if he wants to get competitive.. **Status:** *Likely D.*

**Congressional District 4: R Primary:** U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **D Primary:** Mark Wehrle. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Huntington, NE Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Souder v. Wehrle. **1994 results:** Souder 83,466, Long 65,956. **1996 Results:** Souder 118,344, Houseman (D) 76,152, Bisson (L) 4,743. **1998 Forecast:** Souder, with \$61,845 cash on hand is in no trouble. Wehrle, president of a bottled water company, presents token opposition. **Status:** *Solid R.*

**Congressional District 5: R Primary:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **D Primary:** Hugh Salisbury. **Geography:** Kokomo, Marion, Peru, Monticello, Lowell, Northern Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Buyer. **1994 results:** Buyer 108,575, Beatty 43,619, Alfred (L) 3,328. **1996 Results:** Buyer 133,604, Clark (D) 67,125, Lehman (L) 5,255. **1998 Forecast:** Buyer is in no trouble. Has \$182,832 cash on hand. Put this one in the bank. **Status:** *Solid R.*

**Congressional District 6: R Primary:** U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, George Holland. **D Primary:** Bob Kern, Carrie Jean Trammell. **Geography:** Greenfield, Franklin, Tipton, Indianapolis collar counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Burton. **1994 results:** Burton 136,876, Bruner 40,815. **1996 Results:** Burton 189,461, Dillard-Trammell (D) 58,362, Peterson (L) 5,295. **1998 Forecast:** Burton leads the Indiana delegation with \$933,897 cash on hand. New candidates Holland (who lives in the 2nd CD), Kern and Trammell emerge. But Justice could indict Burton on Pakistani Shakedowngate (which is unlikely) and it wouldn't matter. **Status:** *Solid R.*

**Congressional District 7: R Primary:** U.S. Rep. Ed Pease v. Doug Hess. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Terre Haute, Lafayette and Western Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Pease. **1994 results:** Myers 104,359, Harmless 55,941. **1996 Results:** Pease 130,010, Hellmann (D) 72,705, Bourland (L) 7,125. **1998 Forecast:** Primary challenge to Pease by Doug Hess, an Indiana State University financial aids department staffer, has a better chance of freezing in hell. Pease has \$148,164 cash on hand and Hess has \$142, which might pay for a cab ride from Terre Haute to Indianapolis. Democrats aren't in play this fall. **Status:** *Solid R.*

**Congressional District 8: R Primary:** U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **D Primary:** Evansville Councilwoman Gail Riecken. **Geography:** Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Hostettler v. Riecken. **1994 results:** Hostettler 93,529, McCloskey 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Forecast:** Hostettler has a \$160,270 to \$121,403 cash on hand lead over Riecken. That seems narrow, but Hostettler milks turnips. Riecken finally gets the endorsement from Shelburn clerk-treasurer Jay Southwood. Riecken is beginning to take the issues to Hostettler, primarily over Medicare. They hay is dry and in the barn, it's hot, there's a match lit.... **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

**Congressional District 9: R Primary:** Jean Leising, Michael Bailey, Cecil Copley. **D Primary:** Baron Hill, Fred Holt. **Geography:** New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Leising v. Hill. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459, Leising 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton 128,885, Leising 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Forecast:** Leising is laying an egg (or maybe not enough of them) in fund raising. Hill has a whopping \$245,810 cash on hand, compared to \$16,669 for Leising, which she'll have to spend in order to fend off the feisty Bailey in the primary. Leising's announcement TV coverage in Indianapolis showed her in a room alone, looking drowsy. Bailey has only \$474, but a fleet of church buses at his disposal. Watch for the GOP upset. **Status:** *Likely D.*

**Congressional District 10: R Primary:** Virginia Blankenbaker, Gary Hofmeister, Marvin Scott. **D Primary:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Suzanne Fischman. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **HPR General Forecast:** Blankenbaker v. Carson. **1994 results:** Jacobs (D) 58,573, Scott 50,998. **1996 Results:** Carson 90,869, Blankenbaker 69,248, St. Angelo (L) 3,505. **1998 Forecast:** Scott enters the race, which is bad news for Hofmeister since he could split up the conservative vote paving the way for the moderate Blankenbaker to win the primary. Blankenbaker has a key edge in ballot familiarity. Blankenbaker has a \$118,857 cash on hand lead over Hofmeister, with \$48,464. But Hofmeister could use his own money if need be. Hofmeister first candidate to air radio ads in the state. Here's the question for Mr. Personality (Scott): What's the point, Marv? The congresswoman has \$161,984, which is a decent figure. Carson says after State of the Union address that folks are more interested in the economy than Monica Lewinsky. She better hope it's that way next fall. **Status:** *Leans D.*

✍ Brian A. Howey

# TICKER T A P E

Borst told HPR that he was "really concerned the surplus was going to get piddled away. The thrust of the Senate plan is to lower property taxes. This is something that is going to happen this year, or next year, or in four years." Borst added that the Senate Republicans' plan should have been seen as a "compass" by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Taxes. "We're saying to the commission, 'Here's something you can focus on,'" said Borst. The commission is expected to make across-the-board tax reform recommendations in December.

Former Huntingburg Mayor Connie Nass officially announced her candidacy for Auditor of State. Nass announced that State Sen. Beverly Gard and GOP National Chairman Robert Hiler Jr. will serve as campaign co-chairs. Nass takes credit for bringing the filming of the motion picture "A League of Their Own" to Huntingburg. Candidates for Statehouse offices will be selected June 4-5 at the Republican State Convention. Goshen Councilwoman Patty Morgan has filed in the 49th House District as a Democrat in the seat being vacated by Rep. Phil Warner. She will likely take on Goshen attorney John Ullmer. The district is a

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# TICKER T A P E

60/40 bastion of Republicanism.

Delaware County GOP precinct committeewoman Claudina McCammack predicted that U.S. Rep. David McIntosh will carry her county this fall. McIntosh lost Delaware County in 1996, but carried the rest of the 2nd CD with 58 percent of the vote.

East Chicago Councilman Gus Kouros has come under fire for having the city foot the bill for a \$100 ticket he bought to a Democratic Party fund-raiser last summer.

AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Jerry Payne told a Bloomington news conference that "If labor is silenced, then other interest groups should be concerned" (A.J. Nelson, Bloomington Herald-Times). Payne was criticizing U.S. Rep. John Hostettler for supporting the federal Paycheck Protection Act. "It obviously wasn't designed to protect our paychecks. It was designed to protect his and Newt Gingrich's," Payne said. The act would require labor unions to obtain permission of each member before the unions could give or spend money on political campaigns.

Stuart Rothenberg of the Rothenberg Political Report

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# PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Coats ponders Clinton scandal, Iraq and a race with Evan Bayh

INDIANAPOLIS - U.S. Sen. Dan Coats and I walked past a previous issue of *NUVO Newsweekly* framed on the wall which showed a photo and he and Dan Burton under the headline "environmental wimps."

The Indianapolis alternative daily was once the last place you'd expect to find a Republican. But there have been recent and reliable sightings of such figures as GOP Chairman Mike McDaniel milling around the *NUVO* office. Why, Marion County Prosecutor Scott Newman was seen not too long ago enjoying a breakfast with Harrison Ullmann, a rumored liberal who has made it a habit of calling Indianapolis City Council-members "Rat's Ass Republicans" (i.e. "they don't give a rat's ass").

Ullmann has gone on to explain that Republicans like Coats and Lugar aren't like their party brethren down the foodchain.

Coats came to *NUVO* to say several things. The scandal involving President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky and the looming crisis in Iraq will likely paralyze the agenda of Congress for months to come. "These two issues have subsumed all the best laid plans," Coats said wistfully.

**Air strikes in Iraq**, he went on, cannot solve the problem of the Madman Hussein.

Of course, I, political newsletter publisher now hanging out at an alternative newspaper, wanted to know other things.

Will there be impeachment proceedings? What did he think of Presidential press secretary Mike McCurry telling the *Chicago Tribune* that morning, "I think it's going to end up being a very complicated story; as most human relationships are. And I don't think it's going to be entirely easy to explain maybe."

Coats has a unique perspective on President Clinton, being a Republican. Clinton has expressed interest in Coats' American Project Renewal legislation. He took Coats along with him to Bosnia last December to greet

troops. Coats observed of the president in crisis, "His inner circle is pulling in, to where there are only attorneys."

Clinton Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles is "counting the days" to when he can leave. And McCurry's bizarre observation and others candidly suggesting that he is not in the loop was "stunning" to Coats.

The senator shook his head at the notion of the "world's most powerful leader and a young intern. Where was the discipline? The self-restraint?"

The danger lurking for Clinton, Coats explained, was, "The President looked in the camera, pointed his finger and said 'I did not have an affair.' That's a direct lie to the American people. If it turned out he lied, how can you trust him on anything else?"

Will there be impeachment, if Clinton is lying? Coats said it would come only after Kenneth Starr "backs up a few Ryder trucks to Henry Hyde's office and drops off boxes and boxes."

**In May, there will be the Paula Jones trial.** "That will be a national soap opera," Coats said. "That will take us into early summer. Congress may only do essential things and that will leave a referendum for the American people this fall."

"Every once in awhile an election is not about Candidate A and Candidate B," Coats said. "We saw that in 1974 with Nixon. And it didn't end with Nixon. People want to hand the election to Evan Bayh. Well, it may be more than a referendum on Evan Bayh."

I described this week's HPR cover scenario to Coats. He nodded in agreement. "There is no clear indication of who the front-runner is - no consensus. But that may be different in April."

His aide appeared. I knew what that meant - it was time to go. Before he made a phone call to his office, Coats said one more thing: "You know, I wasn't afraid to take on Evan Bayh." ☞

# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Phil Wieland**, *Munster Times* - Watching Chicago Mayor Richard Daley visit Gary last week was a little like catching the trained seal act at the circus, except the seals are cuter than the obedient barkers lapping at Little Richard's heels. All Little Richard has to do is wave a few promises and a little cash like fresh mackerel in front of Indiana's alleged leaders, and they dance, and clap and balance beach balls on their noses hoping he will toss one of those smelly fish their way. "We are looking for a commitment from an alliance of business leaders to help market and generate business for this airport," Daley said, setting off a veritable pinniped pandemonium of joyful barking and flipper flapping. Rep. Peter Visclosky said, "I don't think people are falsely optimistic. I think Mayor Daley is sincere, and I think we have taken some good first steps." Take a couple more fish out of petty cash, Pete. Arfing and clapping the loudest was Gary Mayor Scott King, who said, "This compact has been mutually beneficial to Chicago and to Gary." What King said was true. Gary got money it wouldn't have had, even if it's not nearly enough to do the things needed to make it a real airport, and Chicago benefited by keeping Indiana officials' myopic attention focused on Gary and away from Illinois. 🐾

**R. K. Shull**, *Indianapolis News* - The rest of the nation may be abuzz over who did what to whom in the Oval Office and whether anyone enjoyed it. But in Indiana, especially south of I-70, there's a greater debate over the efficacy of raging tantrums in the science of basketball coaching. Or to put it simply, does the sideline sideshow of Indiana University coach Bobby Knight serve any good purpose? Among those affirming Knight's bombastic tactics are two of IU's top administrators, who felt compelled to write an open letter to the media on behalf of the coach. Why does that letter remind me of an old Yiddish proverb: "An explanation is no explanation?" 🐾

**Sylvia Smith**, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* -

It looks as though Bill Salin's motto for supporting Republican candidates is "The more the merrier." Salin, the former Fort Wayne attorney and secretary of state, is included on Peter Rusthoven's endorsement list. But he also gave Paul Helmke \$1,000 for his campaign. It might seem strange for someone who has endorsed one candidate to give money to another, but Salin said it's not so odd. "I love 'em both." Salin declined to say which candidate he'll vote for in the May 5 primary. "I don't know," he said. "I want to see how they campaign." He initially said he plans to send Rusthoven a campaign contribution, too, but amended that to say his wife, Jane, had signed the check. 🐾

**Harrison Ullmann**, *NUVO Newsweekly* -

I've been doing journalism off and on for 40 years, but I don't think I know how it's done anymore. Something's changed - I don't know what; I don't know how. I don't even know when, except that it was sometime after Woodward and Bernstein dug the dirt for Watergate. Like the stuff Bill Clinton gave Monica Lewinsky. At first the mainstream media - that's media with names like CNN and the *Washington Post* - tells me that Bill gave Monica a dress that the FBI took away so it could look for traces of Bill's personal fluids. After awhile, the dress had turned into a long T-shirt without any juice stains. Now it's a dress again and maybe it's got spots again. My inquiring mind would like to know about this. Anyway, after considerable study, I have decided that mainstream journalism is a lot easier than the journalism we've been doing at NUVO as well as more trendy. And a lot more fun, because now stories can be whatever we want them to be. Like, I've always wanted to do a story about Steve Goldsmith maybe being the guy on the grassy knoll in Dallas ... 🐾

## TICKER TAPE

speculates that the "dramatic events" surrounding President Clinton and the Monica Lewinsky allegations "raise new questions about November's congressional elections and increase the chances of more significant Democratic losses than previously expected. However, he adds, "One thing is clear: The overall political environment continues to favor incumbents seeking re-election."

St. Joseph County Prosecutor Michael Barnes has posted 12 billboards that read, "If your sex partner is under 16, they won't be when you get out of prison" (Joseph Dits, South Bend Tribune).

Indiana's December unemployment rate was 3.4 percent, compared to 4.4 percent nationally. Last December, there were 2.992 million Hoosiers employed, a gain of 66,400 jobs over the same month in 1996.

9th CD Republican candidate Michael Bailey tells HPR that he has distributed 75,000 copies of a newspaper he had printed up last year. He has another 425,000 available to voters prior to the primary. Bailey also wrote an op-ed piece in which he noted that Gov. O'Bannon has appointed a commission to study the overall impact of

*continued on page 8*

# TICKER

## T A P E



gambling in Indiana. "It's a little late, isn't it, Governor?" Bailey asked. Bailey noted that his opponent, former State Sen. Jean Leising, voted for casino gambling. And noted that the governor's own newspaper, the Corydon Democrat, "is one of the most pro-gambling newspapers in Indiana." Bailey ended the letter by asking, "If your commission does find that state-sponsored gambling is doing harm to our economy and citizens, are you prepared to pull the plug on gambling? If not, why are you wasting our tax dollars to do a study?"

### Price, from page 2

and knife show circuit. The same scenario presented here for Price could also work again for Bailey. While Bailey has only \$474 cash on hand, his mainstream 9th CD primary opponent Jean Leising has a tiny \$16,669! Bailey has already pumped out thousands of copies of his own newspaper in a district that is apt to have a tiny GOP primary turnout next May.

### More than 'Bayh Phenomena'

The lack of money in the Senate race is, in some part, attributed to what Price calls the "Bayh Phenomena." That is, national PACs find Evan Bayh palatable to business interests. Bayh has been Indiana's most conservative modern governor. So those PACs are watching, not spending.

But it goes deeper than that. The whole 1996 campaign fund-raising scandal involving the Clinton/Gore campaign, followed by allegations of GOP Chairman Haley Barbour funneling in his own shifty money, and the appearance of dozen issue-oriented special interests has shifted the political chemistry and repelled many from getting involved. Some business and industry leaders sensitive to how they are perceived fear the kind of embarrassment and heat contributors received when the Clinton/Gore

campaign went under the microscope.

Then there is Rex Early, who acknowledges the abhorrence felt by the people he raised money from for his 1996 gubernatorial race to the entire process in general. "I sure wouldn't want to have to go back to those people and ask for money," Early told HPR.

Many of Early's contributors and other Republicans were stunned that Stephen Goldsmith could have a \$3 million money advantage over Frank O'Bannon and still lose.

Those are the reasons why Rusthoven and Helmke are finding the money trees and fat wallets few and far between this time out.

### A critical stage

At this writing, Rusthoven and Helmke are at critical stages in this campaign. Both need an infusion of cash so they can run TV and mail campaigns. Rusthoven could have used the endorsement from U.S. Sen. Dan Coats and he needs to penetrate the pro-life, Christian Coalition to blunt Price's core support.

It is obvious that the fears many Republicans had about a contested primary are real.

If something doesn't dramatically alter the dynamic of the race, Price benefits. HPR is not forecasting any such upset by John Price, just the fact that there is a real possibility that such an event could happen.



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