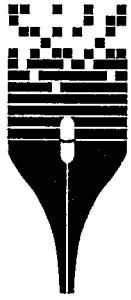
THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



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Bales, Ruppel, Torr face mixed fallout

Challenged Republicans return to face the music

BLOOMINGTON - This past week, three Indiana Republican legislators facing serious primary challenges went back to their districts to face the music and their opponents after the General Assembly failed to pass a tax cut despite a $1.6 billion surplus.

And they all heard different things. HPR speculated that if anyone was to be damaged politically by this inaction, it would likely be Republican incumbents Jerry Bales in Bloomington, Bill Ruppel in the North Manchester area, and Jerry Torr in Carmel.

Since last Friday, HPR has monitored public reaction, talked to the candidates and the local press. While there have been some angry editorials in each district, there does not appear to be the kind of anger brewing that Hoosiers witnessed in 1994.

"They're unpset we didn't do anything about property taxes," said Rep. Bales, who has talked to between 75 and 100 people in the Bloomington area since he returned from the Indiana General Assembly. "They think we should have done something with the $1.6 billion surplus."

But Bales, who is facing a stiff challenge from Monroe County Councilman Jeff Ellington backed by the county Republican organization, doesn't detect an electorate that is as an enraged state like they were in 1994. "There's no change," he said.

Ellington begged to differ. He talked to HPR Tuesday via a cellular phone as he conducted his extensive door-to-door campaign. "It's a pretty hot issue down here," the Republican challenger said. "Every (May) and every November when it comes to pay your property taxes, it's consistently on everyone's minds."

In Ellington's mind, the April tax deadline will be a reminder to voters that nothing happened. "They are disappointed about not getting some type of permanent tax relief," Ellington said. "And yes, I think that's one of the three main things I'll try to take to the voters."

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"He's someone whose heart has been in the right place. He cares about our country, he cares about our communities, he cares about our people. I am honored to know this president...."

- Paul Helmke, speaking about President Clinton, to E.J. Di nne of the Washington P st

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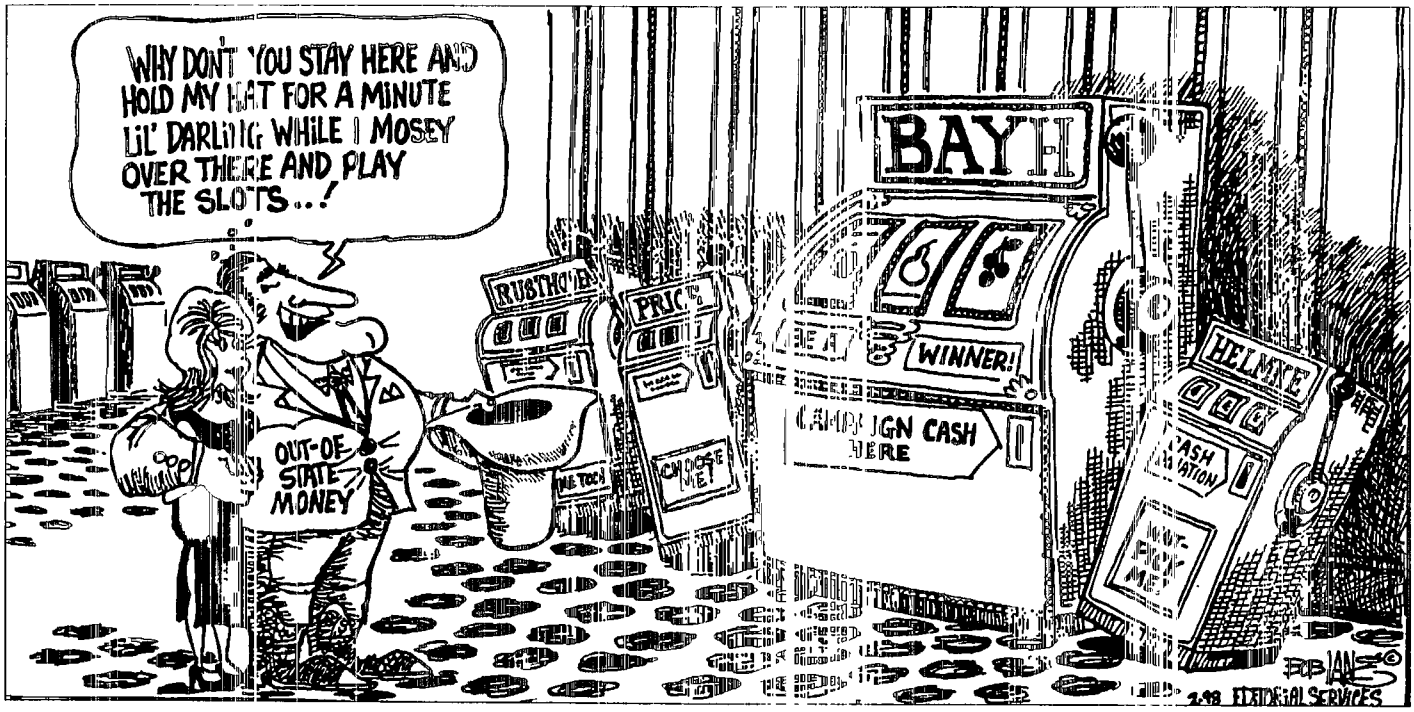

TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: From a superficial perspective, the House Democrats have to be happy as clams over the three intense Republican primaries in Wabash, Carmel and Bloomington. Republicans Jerry Torr, Bill Ruppel and Jerry Bales may have to spend $150,000 combined to stave off their opponents. Yet in some quarters of the GOP there is an attitude that competition from within will make the party stronger.

■ ■ ■

Interesting that the Evan Bayh campaign has been so quiet in the week after his official return to the campaign trail after a six-year hiatus. The

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Tax challenged, from page 1

A *Bloomington Herald-Times* unscientific reader survey on the newspaper's Internet site revealed that of 57 respondents, 85 percent gave the legislature either a grade of D or an F. Another 12 percent gave it a grade of C.

In Wabash County, where Rep. Bill Ruppel is facing a three-way primary with Wabash Commissioner Brian Haupert and respected attorney Charles Tiede, the anger over inaction on the tax cuts hasn't outwardly materialized. "I just haven't heard people talk that much about the legislature," said Bob Bryan, a reporter for the *Wabash Plain Dealer* who is covering the HD 22 primary.

Going into the primary, Bryan suspected that Ruppel was in trouble. "Haupert is popular and has lots of friends and relatives," Bryan explained. But the late entry by Tiede, a respected attorney, may have played into Ruppel's hands.

Haupert said the people he's talked to since the legislature ended reveals a sense of dissatisfaction, but not real anger. He said a meeting with voters in Bremen over the weekend showed an unsettled electorate. "The feeling is that it was a wasted effort for them to meet this time," said Haupert. "A lot of people were expecting a lot of things from this session."

Yet in the next breath, Haupert said he didn't think he would use the issue "too much in that regard." He added, "I don't know if any one person could have changed what happened."

His biggest complaint and one that could resonate prior to the primary was Ruppel's wheelie bill - legislation he proposed a year ago that would have outlawed motorcyclists from popping wheelies. "If that's that high on his priority list when he has only five pieces of legislation to make, then he's not representing the district well," Haupert charged.

Ruppel had just returned from a meeting with farmers Tuesday and found constituents agreeing with Rep. Eric Turner's proposal last November to forego the session.

"They said he might as well have done what Turner suggested," Ruppel said. "But I've had a real good reception. Most seem satisfied with what I'm doing and they are encouraging me to continue. Really, I think we made the smarter decision. Having the surplus intact will help us out next year and tide us over."

Is Ruppel worried about whether he'll be re-elected. "No," he said. "My philosophy is that I felt I was asked by a lot of people to run. If

people believe in what I do and like what I do, they are going to continue supporting me. If not, they won't. That's all I can do. I have no control over it."

While the Bales-Ellington primary battle features an ideological twist between conservative and moderate Republicans that could lead to a donnybrook, the North Manchester-Bremen area reflects the pacificistic tendencies of Manchester College.

While Bales is reporting that Ellington has already begun "killer phone calls," the Ruppel/Haupert/Tiede race will be civil. In a debate format, Bryan said, "Tiede might be very formidable."

Carmel front is quiet, so far

Neither Rep. Jerry Torr nor his opponent, Nancy Irsay, have heard an outcry from voters over the lack of a tax cut. Irsay did explain, "People are disgusted that nothing got done. People are tired of the special interests."

But Irsay's views are reflected more by what she has seen and heard in the Indianapolis media and not by any outcry from voters.

Torr's fingers on the pulse of the district have come pretty much in party circles. "I feel gratified from the response of precinct committeemen and my supporters with whom I've been in contact. I feel good," he said.

That could all change on March 5, when Irsay and Torr will attend a meet-the-candidates function in Hamilton County's Clay Township. It will be the first joint appearance by Irsay and Torr and one of the first public functions where they will be able to gauge the reaction of voters.

Mike Pence: People are honked

Statewide, there are indications in some politically active quarters that people are angry. WIBC's Mike Pence reported such fury when he chatted with listeners last Monday.

"I opened up the phone lines on Monday and boom! the phones exploded and people were just honked," Pence said. "What I kept hearing was people were overcharged for government and we deserved a refund. They were entitled to it. Most people saw through the gimmicky nature of the $100 check, but they would have taken it.

"I don't think there were any clear ideological winners," Pence continued. "The Republicans have an opportunity to say we dug in for a more serious option. People were just hungry for some genuine tax relief and there was a sense that we are overtaxed and that when you've got a governemnt with a $2 billion surplus, got to give some of it back. The Democrats needed a story to tell and they didn't get one."

Fall campaign a different story

How the tax issue plays in these Republican primaries is one thing. None of the participants have a lot of time to shape messages. The May property tax deadline obviously presents an opportunity for challengers. It would be easy to imagine Irsay, Ellington or Haupert holding a press conference outside the county courthouse lamenting how a do-nothing legislature couldn't return any money to the voters.

The fall campaign is a different story. Republicans conceivably could use the same tactic late next October, telling voters that their tax bills due just a week after the November election would have been mitigated had the Democrats only listened.

Democrats can counter that had the Republicans listened, there would have been a $100 rebate check in the mail.

If an Associated Press story published earlier this week is any indication, Republicans could also use Gov. Frank O'Bannon as their fall whipping boy. "Gov. O'Bannon had a ringside seat to watch legislators slug it out over tax cuts for two months," AP's lead read. "He never climbed over the ropes and got into the brawl himself.

"It was hard to tell who was angrier - O'Bannon's 50 party colleagues who control the House or Republicans who rule the Senate. They had finally agreed on something: The governor was out of line."

The Associated Press story quoted Bales as saying of the governor, "He missed a golden opportunity this year to get out and speak for something. He could have made himself so popular in 1999 by getting out and leading on this thing." ✍

TICKER TAPE

attitude of the Bayh camp while President Clinton is in turmoil is the less said the better; raise as much money as we can now ... because we may really need it next November. Radio/TV talk show host Mike Pence puts it this way: "Evan Bayh is studiously avoiding the news media."

Pence also remarked: "I can't talk about Bill Clinton on the show anymore because people are so enraged. I'm talking about Republicans, Democrats and independents. I don't know where they are taking these polls at."

More of Pence: "1994 was punishment of the aggressive liberalism of '93 - gays in the military, health care. The American people said, 'Wrong!' That's why off-year elections are bad for the White House. This could be the event of all time. It could be scorched earth for the Democratic Party. I think Evan Bayh is a man of unimpeachable integrity, but if Bill Clinton goes down shaking his finger at the American people, Bayh could conceivably be in trouble."

Allen County Democrats were unable to field candidates in 37 out of 67 races this year, the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette reported.

Senate Democrats called the

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Primary Toss-Ups

1st - Lawson v. Katic

22nd - Ruppel v. Tiede, Haupert

39th - Irsay v. Torr

60th - Bales v. Ellington

General Toss-Ups

34th - Vanleer v. Adams

46th - Tincher v. Lohr

53rd - Cherry or Higgins v. Wolf

54th - Saunders v. Hamilton

56th - Bodiker v. Paust or Dickson

97th - Mahern v. Schultz

Open Seats

1st - Tabaczynski
9th - Alevizos
10th - Wilson
37th - Webber
49th - Warner
50th - Stephan
53rd -Gulling
73rd - Heeke

1998 House Racing Form

How the wheelie bill provoked a Ruppel revolt

Democrats in the Statehouse were chuckling this past week over the Torr-Irsay GOP primary battle in Hamilton and Boone counties. Torr explained, "It saddens me. I was on the finance committee of the House Republican Campaign Committee and we were raising money to ensure a Republican majority in the House in 1999. My Democratic friends are chuckling about that. It takes money away from challengers in Democratic districts." Irsay counters that the race doesn't have to be in the $100,000 range.

HORSE RACE

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 9 percent; **Likely** is 10 to 15 points; and **Solid** means watch out for a landslide.

Top Primary Battles

House District 22: **R Primary:** Rep. Bill Ruppel, Wabash Commissioner Brian Haupert, Charles Tiede. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Wabash, Marshall, Kosciusko counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Ruppel. **1994 Results:** Ruppel 10,954 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Ruppel 13,714 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Late entry of Wabash attorney Charles Tiede has changed the complexion of this race. Many observers thought Tiede was a Democrat. Had it just been Ruppel v. Haupert, the incumbent might have been in real trouble. Now this trio looks to cut up the Wabash County vote that amounts to 53 percent of the district. "The race will be won up north," Haupert declared. Ruppel defeated Haupert in a 1986 county council race by taking 70 percent of the vote. Since then, Haupert has won two commissioner races and has solified his political base. Ruppel will have to defend the legislature and inaction on tax cuts in light of the $1.6 billion surplus. Haupert believes he will spend between $10,000 and $20,000. Ruppel said he has "no idea" how much he will have to spend to defend the seat. Haupert pledges not to run a "personal type of negative campaign." But he said it was Ruppel's 1997 "wheelie bill" that prompted him to enter the race. **Primary Status:** *Leans Ruppel.*

House District 39: **R Primary:** Rep. Jerry Torr, Nancy Irsay. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Lebanon, Zionsville, Carmel, Boone and Hamilton counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Toss-up. **1994 Results:** Willing (R) 15,974, unopposed. **1996 Results:** Torr 21,451, unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** The early line on this race was that Carmel Mayor Brainard got Irsay to run in order to push the annexation issue. Torr had sponsored a bill that would have required referendums in both cities and unincorporated areas. But Irsay signed an annexation remonstrance petition and hosted a remonstrators' rally at her party pavilion. Says Irsay, "I decided to run on my own." Torr believes he will have to spend "close to six figures" in order to win the primary. Irsay responds, "I in no way intend for this to get into a race for massive amounts of money. I'm not being backed by any major lobbyists or PACs. Fund-raising will be from friends of Nancy Irsay." She added, "People are disgusted that nothing got done" in the last session of the legislature. Irsay acknowledges she has donated campaign money to Evan Bayh, but said it was a hard business reality given her previous position with the Indianapolis Colts. Torr and Irsay both plan to attend a number of candidate forums. Torr said of Irsay, "Obviously she's got high name ID. It will be interesting to see how that translates into votes." And on running a negative campaign, Torr said, "I've had negative campaigns done against me. People said some extremely untrue things. I'm not interested in that kind of thing." However, a whisper campaign aimed at Irsay is in full-swing. Torr said Speaker Mannweiler and other House Republicans have offered to go door-to-door on his behalf. Irsay dines with McDaniel who advises, "Call Paul Mannweiler." **Primary Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 60: **R primary:** Rep. Jerry Bales v. Jeff Ellington. **D Primary:** Gwendolyn Spice. **Geography:** Bloomington, Monroe County. **HPR General Forecast:** Bales v. Spice. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Forecast:** Bales challenges Ellington to 10 debates in places like Bloomfield, Smithville and Ellettsville. Ellington declines, saying, "I filed on Jan. 10 and now it's into March and we've got eight weeks to go through all these precincts and go one on one with

voters and I'll be pushing it to get to every house. I just don't see any time left to do debates. I've got a record; he's got a record. It's not what a man says, it's what a man does." Ellington added, "I believe my short record - is a whole lot more positive than his long record. Especially on property tax relief." Ellington wouldn't say how much he's raised but Bales says it's around $60,000. Bales believes he will have to spend $20,000 to $30,000 waging primarily a direct mail campaign. Ellington has billboards up and denies Bales claims that killer phone banks are lurking in the fiber-Os. Bales declares that the Monroe County GOP "has been taken over by the right wing." Bales added that people are "concerned" that Ellington won his county council seat a year ago and now has "higher ambitions." Bales claims that Ellington's campaign is being run out of the Indiana Memorial Union even though most IU students don't reside in his district. He refutes Ellington's claim that "Bales never met a tax increase he didn't hike" by noting, "I didn't vote for the record tax increases of 1982 and 1987. I didn't like Bob Orr." **Primary Status**: *Toss-Up.*

House District 73: **R Primary:** Grayson Goodness. **D Primary:** Tom Birk, Dennis Oxley, Bernie Fallon. **Geography:** Jasper and Southwestern Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Birk v. Goodness. **1994 Results:** Heeke (D) 9,629, Goodness 8,241. **1996 Results:** Heeke 12,371, Goodness 8,847. **1998 Forecast:** While ISTA is backing Oxley, Birk claims to have a fund-raising advantage. He also has U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton's endorsement. Birk conducted two primary battles against Heeke, losing in 1994 by a 62-38 percent margin and in 1996 by a 53-47 percent margin. "I've been out in the district for the last five years," Birk said. "I've never stopped campaigning." Fallon's entry into the race may complicate things by splitting some of the Jasper vote. But Birk believes Fallon will draw from Oxley's Crawford County base due to the fact his business is located nearby on Patoka Lake. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

Top General Election Battles

House District 34: **R Primary:** James Vanleer. **D Primary:** Rep. Tiny Adams. **Geography:** Muncie, Delaware County. **HPR General Forecast:** Vanleer v. Adams. **1994 Results:** Vanleer 8,491, Elliott 7,522. **1996 Results:** Adams 9,630, Vanleer 9,241. **1998 Forecast:** This race is truly going to be a battle of turnout. There has been an 11 percent drop in voter participation between 1992 and 1996. Of the top 11 Republican precincts, there was a 15 percent drop in that same time period. "Vanleer would have won if five more Republicans would have voted in those top 11 precincts," said Brad Tracy of the HRCC. "That will be the major factor: Who can get their people to the polls." **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 50: **R Primary:** Kent Maxwell, Gary Dillon, Scott Darley, Rodney Putt, Judy Coleman, Mary Blandford, Ned Yingst. **D Primary:** Raymond Scribner. **Geography:** Huntington and Whitley counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Maxwell v. Scribner. **1994 Results:** Stephan (R) 13,418, Yingst 5,392. **1996 Results:** Stephan 15,856, B. Yingst 5,855. **1998 Forecast:** HRCC won't dispute our prediction that Maxwell is the front-runner. It's just that the crowded primary field makes this race unpredictable. Again, we're going with Maxwell based on his status as an elected official in Huntington County where most of the votes are. But that's where most of the candidates are from, too. District should stay Republican this fall. **Status:** *Solid R.*

House District 53: **R Primary:** Councilman Robert Cherry, Mark Higgins. **D Primary:** Sarah Wolf. **Geography:** Greenfield, Cumberland, Hancock County. **HPR General Forecast:** Cherry v. Wolf. **1994 Results:** Gulling (R) 13,945 unopposed. **1996 Results:** Gulling (R) 20,174 unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** Higgins' use of New Palestine cheerleaders "festooned in their crimson uniforms" as *Greenfield Daily Reporter* writer Carl Prine described to hand out literature at the Hancock County Lincoln Day dinner has sparked a school investigation by the principal!. Higgins' wife sits on the Southern Hancock School Board, so their were lots of furrowed eyebrows over this one. Higgins said he was inspired by Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy's use of a high school orchestra at a campaign announcement. He said he also wanted the girls to meet Sen. Lugar. HRCC question "Toss-Up" status, claiming district has changed since Wolf won it in 1990 as Indianapolis Republicans flee into Hancock County. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 97: **R Primary:** Ray Schultz. **D Primary:** Rep. Ed Mahern. **Geography:** Southern Indianapolis. **HPR General Forecast:** Schultz v. Mahern. **1994 Results:** Heffley 4,782, Cantwell 4,037. **1996 Results:** Mahern 6,368, Heffley 5,372. **1998 Forecast:** Republicans making a good case that this race could go to the wire. Schultz has been coaching football for 20 years and has helped a lot of people in the Manual High School district. Like the HD34 in Muncie, this is a race all about turnout. It is also a seat that could change hands if any national Republican tide takes shape over the Clinton sex scandal. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

✍ *Brian A. Howey*

TICKER TAPE

1998 legislative session a success. "Despite the lack of an agreement for spending part of the state surplus, I think we can generally be very proud of what we achieved in several areas, including children's health," said Senate Minority Leader Richard Young. He noted that SB 19 will allow the state to access $70 million in federal funds for the start-up of the Children's Health Insurance Program. It is estimated the program will cover 78,000 children during its first year.

The Allen County Republican Lincoln Day dinner on April 23 in Fort Wayne will feature a debate among Senate candidates Paul Helmke, Peter Rusthoven and John Price.

Delaware County Councilman Tracy Lee Barton was arrested after he allegedly got into a fight with a uniformed police officer in a westside Muncie bar (Muncie Star Press). Barton explained, "It wasn't a fight. It was just a family quarrel. Things got blown out of proportion."

9th CD Republican Michael Bailey vows to shake "over 40,000 hands by May 5."

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton released thousands of pages of documents revealing Charlie Trie's

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role in the campaign fund-raising scandal. The materials included bank and credit card records, telephone calls, hotel charges and White House and DNC documents related to Trie and associates. The release of House Government Reform and Oversight Committee documents came after hearings into Trie's role were cancelled due to his federal indictment.

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh told Jack Colwell of the South Bend Tribune of his bill to eliminate the marriage tax, "If we have a tax cut this year, it's going to be in it." Colwell's article mentioned that Democratic U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer was one of 235 House members signed on to the bill.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar told Colwell that Iraq's agreement on inspections "defies interpretation" but at least "it gives us time to do several things we were not doing very well" (South Bend Tribune). Lugar's comments came after a briefing with Defense Secretary William Cohen. Lugar said Cohen "still has not been able to interpret the entirety of the agreement." Lugar also questioned the value of inspecting Saddam Hussein's palaces. "My guess is that the palaces will be perfectly clean," Lugar said. "We aren't dealing with a shipyard or with a railway

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Class of '94 rebels focus on issues

Souder, McIntosh pledge to work with Gingrich

By Mark Schoeff Jr.
Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON -- Following a week of political intrigue in the House of Representatives GOP caucus, two leading Hoosier sophomore congressmen say they are focused on promoting conservative policy, not trying to unseat the current House leadership.

Reps. Mark Souder and David McIntosh, who were part of the 73 GOP congressmen swept into office in the 1994 Republican tsunami, have been at the forefront of the conservative cause in the House ever since. Neither, however, is planning to run for a House GOP leadership position in the wake of the retirement of Rep. Bill Paxon (R-NY) last week.

Paxon, who was removed from the leadership last summer when he was alleged to be a provocateur in the coup against House Speaker Newt Gingrich, had indicated he would challenge Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-TX) during December GOP House conference races. Instead, he abruptly changed course and announced that he would retire at the end of his current term to spend more time with his family.

A possible challenge to Armey carries more significance lately because of indications that Gingrich may run for president. The majority leader post is second-ranking in the House leadership to that of speaker. Competition for the number-two position may signal who is in line to be the future speaker, if the GOP maintains its majority.

Because Paxon is out of the picture, will young conservatives coalesce around Souder or McIntosh? Even though the two Hoosiers have generated barrels full of news ink with their penchant to make life difficult for Gingrich and his lieutenants when they are not being sufficiently conservative, neither will run for a GOP conference office. Instead, Souder and McIntosh, who have been portrayed as firebrands, said they will promote the conservative policy agenda and pledged to work with the Gingrich-Armey team, if possible. Armey has been criticized for making too many concessions to moderates as he tries to build a base for a possible run for speaker.

"Dave McIntosh and I have been keeping our powder dry," said Souder in reference to the move to unseat Armey. "We had worked with Dick Armey in the conservative movement. Our goal was never to obtain power in the conference. Our goal was to influence key votes. My role in Congress is to be an ally and strategist with anyone who is in power, as long as I am not mad at them."

CONGRESS WATCH

Souder has hosted many "unity dinners" for Armey that have brought together the conservative and moderate wings of the GOP to find common ground on issues.

Recently, McIntosh was elected chairman of the Conservative Action Team, which is composed of about 35 staunchly conservative congressmen. His new position gives McIntosh a platform to influence the House agenda and try to ensure that it reflects conservative principles. He'll do so, he says, in an ecumenical fashion.

"CATs will work with different coalitions within the Republican majority and Democrats where we can. We'll be a slimmed down, but more effective conservative voice," McIntosh said of CATs, which numbered about 70 last year. "We'll select three to four topics and try to get them adopted by the (GOP) conference."

The policy is the thing for Souder and McIntosh. Litmus test issues Souder outlined include maintaining government spending within budget caps set by the balanced budget agreement, providing tax cuts, and promoting a cluster of social issues, such as partial-birth abortion, parental notification for abortions,

and religious liberties.

Maintaining spending caps, producing a GOP vision for the upcoming highway funding bill, providing tax cuts, and passing a school prayer amendment are the top issues for CATs, McIntosh said.

For now, the Gingrich-Armey team is in a strong position because "we have had a good run," Souder said. He cited achieving a projected budget surplus, holding down National Endowment for the Arts spending, and promoting anti-abortion legislation. He also said that Gingrich and Armey have been communicating better with House conservatives.

Gingrich and the GOP leadership may have hell to pay, though, if they fail to work on two favorite conservative items - tax cuts and social issues. But Souder said the rebels are going to keep their goals reasonable, knowing that Gingrich must work with the Senate and administration to get laws enacted. "We're not quite as irrational as the media makes us out to be," Souder said.

A Washington political analyst, however, said the class of '94, which has dwindled from 73 in 1994 to 56 today and possibly 49 after the election, is not necessarily decisive in the life of the House. "In the long-run, this class is not the power base that it once was, or at least appeared to be," said Charlie Cook, editor of the Cook Political Report.

"Dave McIntosh and I have been keeping our powder dry. Our goal was never to obtain power in the conference; our goal was to influence key votes..."

Bill Frenzel, a former GOP congressman from Minnesota (1971-91) said the hard-charging Class of '94 conservatives are achieving pyrrhic victories. They were the force behind the two government shutdowns of 1995-96, aimed at cutting the budget. Most observers agree that the shutdowns hurt the GOP overall and benefitted President Clinton. In the latest development, Frenzel said the rebels pushed Paxon into a confrontation with the House leadership and have now lost a potential future speaker.

"I keep thinking that the class is going to mature one of these days," he said.

With the political reality of today, a Democratic president and an almost evenly split House, the firebrand conservatives have to become more sophisticated. "You have to proceed with more care and cunning than the zealots have demonstrated," said Frenzel.

The Capitol Hill GOP machinations are not registering outside the Beltway, said Cook. "People are totally tuned out to Washington," he said. "This is too inside baseball."

No matter what happens internally in the House, 1998 should be a good year for all incumbents, including the House majority, said Frenzel, a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution. "As long as people are working, they're going to be quiet about their government. In a quiet, good year, (the rebels) are not going to look as fearsome as they would in a year when people are nervous about losing their jobs."

Although Souder, too, thinks it will be a quiet election year, he believes that the conservative agenda is the key to victory for the GOP. In fact, he said, that agenda has been so popular with it the electorate that it gets stolen by the Democrats.

"Clinton, to the degree he can, takes the GOP agenda," Souder said. "Evan Bayh is a better example. He called for a flatter, simpler tax system in his Fort Wayne Senate announcement. I mean, come on."

Bayh is running for the seat being vacated by Sen. Dan Coats.

Souder also cited a California special election. In the GOP primary, the right-wing candidate, Tom Bordonaro, defeated moderate Brooks Firestone for the nomination to run for the seat opened by the death of Rep. Walter Capps.

"The GOP will win, if we stay on a conservative course," Souder said. ✍

Schoeff is HPR's Washington correspondent reporting from Capitol Hill.

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facility. We're dealing with stuff that's in a room like this," pointing to his own DC office. "You pick it up, cart it out the back door, down the road."

Chicago Sun-Times' columnist Robert Novak writes that the state of Illinois "was being hosed" in the income tax agreement between Illinois and Indiana.

U.S. Rep. Julia Carson spoke at the dedication of renaming the downtown Indianapolis Post Office after former congressman Andy Jacobs.

POLL WATCH: A March 2 Newsweek poll gives President Clinton a 64/27 percent approval/disapproval rating. In the same poll, 48 percent said that Kenneth Starr had gone too far in investigating the Lewinsky matter. Fox News Poll also of March 2 gives President Clinton a 59/34 percent approval/disapproval rating. The Fox Poll said that 54 percent thought Kenneth Starr had "gone too far." House Speaker Newt Gingrich had a 31/48 percent approval/disapproval rating.

Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy endorsed David Lohr in HD46 in his race against State Rep. Vern Tincher.

When State Rep. Phyllis Pond

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TICKER TAPE

was asked if she was supporting Paul Helmke's Senate candidacy, the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel reported her as saying, "Well, I guess so." Pond appeared with Helmke as he officially announced his campaign in February.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon is now vice chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association. Past vice chairs have included Bill Clinton and Evan Bayh.

Evan Bayh's Senate campaign Internet website is at:
www.bayh.org

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

E.J. Dionne Jr., *Washington Post* - Meet the most unexpected among the potential victims of President Clinton's saga with Monica Lewinsky: He is Paul Helmke, a Republican and this city's popular mayor. No, Helmke is not on anybody's tape machine and has nothing to do with the charges swirling around Clinton. He just happens to be stuck with a spot of bad timing and a remarkable belief, for this era especially, in loyalty. Helmke is seeking the Republican nomination for Indiana's open seat in the U.S. Senate in this spring's primary. And he simply refuses to make a public break with his law school friend Bill Clinton. To consider how much this could cost Helmke with a Midwestern Republican primary electorate, think of a candidate in Green Bay campaigning as a Denver Broncos fan. "He's someone whose heart has been in the right place," Helmke said of the president. "He cares about our country, he cares about our communities, he cares about our people. I am honored to know this president." Those words ricocheted across Indiana. You can be sure (Peter) Rusthoven will be reminding Indiana voters of the Helmke Heresy as the primary approaches.

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - An event can shape a lifetime, and on the eve of his announcement of his campaign for the U.S. Senate last week, Evan Bayh said he's never thought about what would have happened if one had not shaped his. That event was the 1980 race for the U.S. Senate, a race his father, former three-term Sen. Birch Bayh, lost to Dan Quayle. If his father had won a fourth term and was still in the Senate today, Evan said he probably would have gone on to practice law. But would he have been a candidate for secretary of state or governor? "I don't think it would have been practical for me to seek public office while he was still in the Senate," Evan said.

Larry Lough, *Muncie Star Press* - We won't really know until Nov. 3 what Indiana voters thought of the 1998 session of the General Assembly which ended Friday. Voters should be bothered by the Legislature's inability to provide Indiana taxpayers with any benefit from a spare half-billion dollars in the state treasury. That, of course, is money the state collected from taxpayers but didn't need.

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