THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

The Howey Political Report is published 40 times a year by NewsLink, Inc. Founded in 1994, The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana..

Brian A. Howey
editor and publisher

The Howey Political Report
PO Box 20977
Indianapolis, IN 46220

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

Business office: 317-254-1533

Washington office: 202-775-3242

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

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

Subscriptions: $250 annually via fax or first class mail. Call subscription office at 317-254-1533.

*© 1998, The Howey Political Report. All rights reserved. Photocopying, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or in part, is a violation of federal law and is **strictly prohibited** without consent of the publisher.*

GOP House leaders respond to Coalition

Evangelical right takes aim at Mannweiler

INDIANAPOLIS - A "shocking comparison" between Indiana legislative Democratic and Republican leadership in the House was presented by the Christian Coalition.

But Republican House leadership responded to the criticism, saying that pro-life and pro-family legislation has a better chance of moving on to the floor for a vote under their rule than under Democrats.

In it's daily Internet e-mail wire, the Christian Coalition presented a list of how House leaders voted on what it called "pro-life and pro-family" issues in percentages lining up with that agenda.

The comparison included:

■ Speaker John Gregg (D) - 92 percent; Minority Leader Paul Mannweiler (R) - 69 percent.

■ Speaker Pro Tem Chester Dobis (D) - 97 percent; Assistant Minority Leader Kathy Richardson (R) - 50 percent.

■ Majority Floor Leader Mark Kruzan (D) - 20 percent; Minority Floor Leader Brian Bosma (R) - 100 percent.

■ Majority Caucus Chairman Dale Grubb (D) - 73 percent; Minority Caucus Chairman Jeff Linder (R) - 82 percent.

■ Majority Whip Win Moses (D) - 44 percent; Minority Whip Sue Scholer (R) - 41 percent.

The Christian Coalition asks, "A great deal of media attention recently has attempted to address the question of why so many social/religious conservatives are upset with the Republican Party and what they need to do to prevent a split. As this relates to pro-family Hoosiers, we immediately see a 50/50 split in the Indiana House and must ask ourselves why we should want the Republicans to control the House as opposed to the current Democratic leadership?"

Continued on page 2

"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

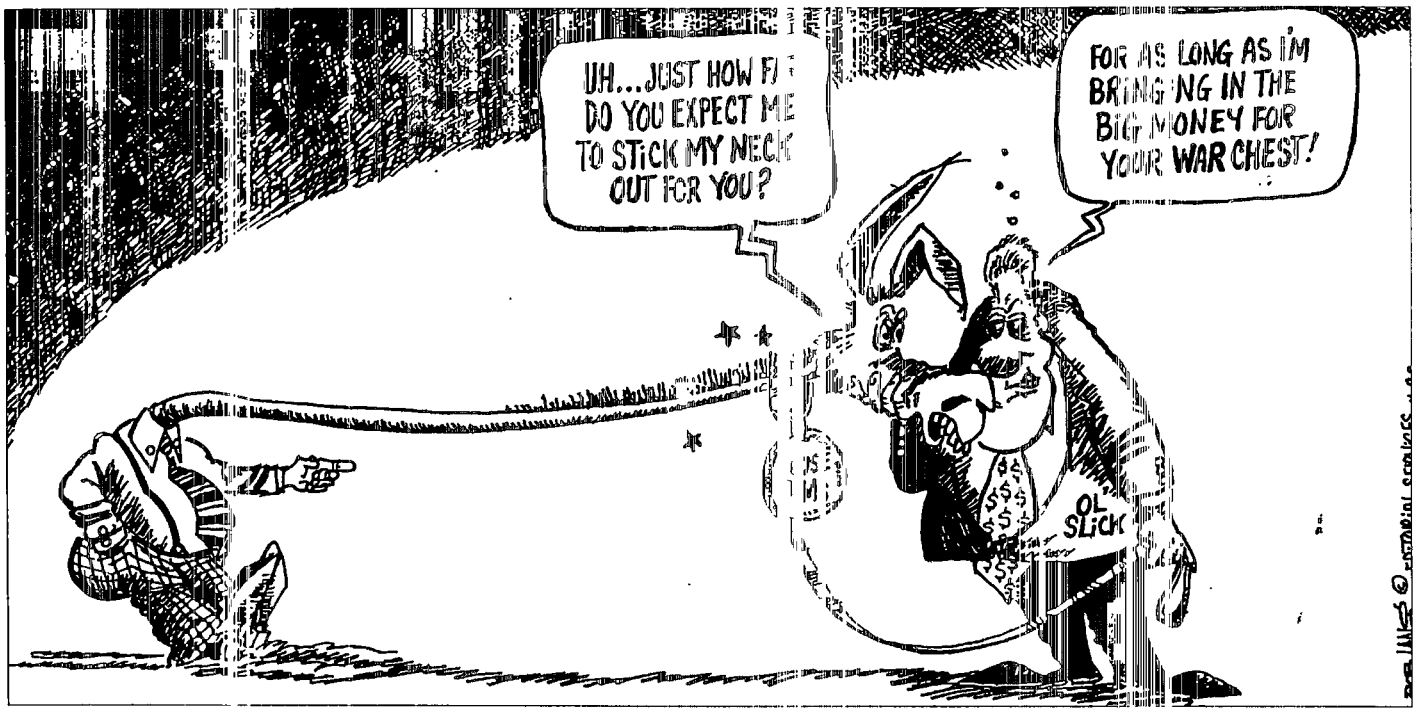
"The whole thing's bizarre as heck. Where it goes from here, I don't know...."

- Delaware County Commissioner Ron Bonham, after being interviewed by the FBI in a county building wiretapping probe, to the Muncie Star Press

INSIDE FEATURES

■ **Bob Lang Cartoon: Clinton and friends** page 3
■ **Horse Race: Convention and Congress** pages 3-5
■ **Columnists: Dionne, Hayes, Ullmann, Kitchell** page 6
■ **Perhaps We Wander: State of Indiana** page 7

Bob Lang



TICKER TAPE

The HD 60 recount between State Rep. Jerry Bales and Monroe County Councilman Jeff Ellington will begin on June 17. Ellington defeated Bales by 18 votes. Most knowledgeable observers HPR has talked to believe Ellington will survive the recount.

State Rep. Philip T. Warner died on May 21, serving 28 years in the Indiana House. "We will dearly miss him," said Republican Leader Paul Mannweiler.

Stone walling by Delaware County authorities in an investigation into an alleged electronic eavesdropping case at the Delaware County Building

Continued on page 3

House, *from page 1*

This represents a fascinating twist in what should be, and how it really is. In most Republican circles, retaking control of the Indiana House is the highest priority this fall. They reason that if the Democrats retain control, it will allow Gov. Frank O'Bannon to pass and take credit for an overhaul of the tax system and that will give him a huge leg up for re-election in 2000.

That battle is already playing out on the governor's Blue Ribbon tax commission, where State Rep. Jeff Espich, the ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, walked out of a recent meeting in protest with its direction.

Now we see a significant Republican constituency - the evangelical right - talking about sitting on their hands when this dramatic showdown in the House reaches its climax on Nov. 3.

Roger Schmelzer, chief counsel to the Republican leadership, said he did not know what legislation the Christian Coalition used in rating leadership. But he defended Mannweiler's regime, saying, "Voting percentages are less important than whether bills move through the system."

Since 1987, Schmelzer said of 25 restrictive abortion bills, only five were called for a vote on the House floor - three during 50/50 split years. One of those bills - Rep. Mike Young's informed consent bill - occurred while Mannweiler was speaker. The other, a partial birth abortion bill, occurred during the tenure of John Gregg. Both of those bills passed.

"I don't believe the Christian Coalition is at a disadvantage with the Republicans because the votes have always been 60/40 on abortion," Schmelzer said. "It would be different if it was 51-49."

On the pro-family front, Schmelzer counted 110 bills since 1987 that could be seen as sympathetic to conservatives. Of those, 32 were debated on the House floor, and 17 became law.

He identified 215 "liberal bills" in the same time period and of those, 78 came to the floor and eight were enacted.

At this point, HPR is forecasting 14 competitive House races - races that at this point could go either way. Of those, six are in a "toss-up" category. Another six seats are "leaning" Republican.

Several of the toss-up races could be

continued on page 8

1998 Racing Form

Clinton in China fireworks; Bishop favored for clerk

Yes, yes, Joe, Horse Race has had its ears peeled for Clintonian scandals - let's see, White Water, FBI files, travel office, billing records, Paula, Monica, subornin' perjury. All had strange aromas. But this Johnny Chung-Chinese story emerging has the potential of being truly explosive politically, not only nationally, but here in Indiana. It is leading us on a path where campaign contributions were tied to the lessening of export restrictions on satellite and missile technology for the People's Liberation Army. Some are even saying these events may have set off the whole Indian-/Pakistani nuclear arms race. The way the olympian White House spin machine stood mute on a response was wholly revealing. The magnitude of these events is one of considerable escalation. We're not talking about oral sex in the Oval Office study, but technology that influences warheads aimed at American cities at a time when we believed that was a thing of the past. It reminds us of Democratic consultant Chris Sautter's quote from last January: "We all know Clinton has nine lives; it just depends on which one he's on right now."

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, say, 9 percent; **Likely** is about 10 to 15 points and a good gut feeling, and **Solid** means watch out for a landslide.

Republican Convention Race

Clerk of the Courts: **Republican:** Brian Bishop, Gary Secrest, Ralph Anderson. **Democrat:** Doug Leatherbury. **HPR General Forecast:** Bishop v. Leatherbury. **1994 results:** Okeson (R) 830,920, Wharry (D) 554,103, Dillon (L) 46,849, Propes (A) 14,742. **1998 Forecast:** The lone bit of drama for next week's Indiana Republican Convention comes in the clerk of the courts race, with the late entry of Brian Bishop creating most of the stir. Bishop, 34, who now serves as deputy clerk to incumbent John Okeson, has sent a letter to county chairs and vice chairs seeking support. He is the last to enter the race. Others seeking the nomination include Gary Secrest, a 1996 attorney general candidate, who hails from Hamilton County, and Cass County veterinarian Ralph Anderson. Jeff Stanton of Logansport had been in the race, but he has since dropped out. Republican sources tell HPR that Bishop's candidacy has been largely welcomed by the GOP establishment. Sources say there were few commitments to the other two candidates, and no one tried to dissuade Bishop from entering the race. Bishop is a Purdue University and Indiana University Law School graduate who now resides in Hamilton County. He practiced law with Okeson in Fort Wayne, then joined him when Okeson won the office in 1994. Okeson declined to seek re-election and for awhile flirted with the idea of running for mayor of Fort Wayne in 1999 should Paul Helmke either win the U.S. Senate race or decide not to seek re-election. Okeson told HPR that he has since decided not to run for mayor. "I can't be mayor and be a father at the same time," Okeson said. "Maybe another election cycle that would be possible, but not now." Traditionally, the clerk of the courts office has not been much of a political stepping stone to higher office. Democrat Dwayne Brown attempted to parlay his 1990 election to the office into an attorney general nod in 1992 and had his eyes on the 10th CD. But a sex and ghost employment scandal ended his political career. Other clerks before Brown have faded into political oblivion. Okeson was on the 1996 list as a potential LG candidate. It's hard to say how this race will shake out in the fall. Evan Bayh at the top of the ticket won't hurt Leatherbury, but his coattails in Statehouse races haven't been very long. Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy should breeze to re-election, and that could help the Republican nominee. **Status:** Toss-Up.

continued on pages 4 & 5

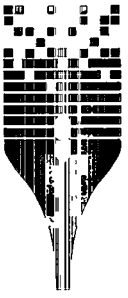
TICKER TAPE

has resulted in an FBI probe (Muncie Star Press). The case began when building superintendent Rick Lorrison found a "suspicious wire" he wasn't familiar with and "something that looked like a recording device" along with it on the second floor where voter registration, election and clerk's offices are located. County police say they did investigate and determined that federal laws may have been violated. It passed its information on to the FBI. Since then, Commissioners Ed Conaster and Ron Bonham and Clerk Karen Wenger have been interviewed by federal agents. A private eye, Bing Crosby, who owns the Brentwood Detective Agency, said agents wanted to know "about relationships between Republicans and dissident Democrats. I don't even know what the inference was." The Star Press reported: "Dissident Democrats, including County Prosecutor Richard Reed, a political ally of Crosby, have formed mutually beneficial relationships with local Republicans in recent elections."

Hoosier First Lady Judy O'Bannon told the Muncie Rotary Club that while she wouldn't mind fireworks and parades to celebrate the new millennium, she does want to see an explosion of new statewide initiatives. "You all

continued on page 5

Indiana Congressional Races



Helmke wins the primary, introduces Clinton in Washington, meets with Price and Rusthoven, then announces a garbage rate increase in Fort Wayne. The Bayh camp seems ecstatic about the opposition's start.

U.S. Senate: **Republican:** Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke. **Democrat:** Evan Bayh. **1992 Results:** Coats 1,267,972, Hogsett 900,148. **1998 Forecast:** Helmke wins the primary, introduces President Clinton in Washington, meets with Price and Rusthoven, then announces a garbage rate increase in Fort Wayne. The Bayh camp seems ecstatic about the opposition's start. Not much else has been seen from Helmke, who decided not to use the momentum from the primary win to seek earned media or draw Bayh out on the issues. Look for first big splash at the June 3-4 GOP convention, where plenty of evangelical delegates will be on hand with a keen ear on Helmke's message. It will be much the same crowd that prompted Stephen Goldsmith to throw the LG nomination to the floor in 1996, and they chose George Witwer. It will be Helmke's chance to energize the party and convince both stalwarts and the news media that he will be competitive. HPR believes he has to bring Bayh's lead down to the 10 to 12 point range by Labor Day in order to be in a position to win. Kenneth Starr's report could be explosive and it will be interesting to see if Helmke tries to link Clinton to Bayh. Republican tracking in the 8th CD reveals Bayh's positive rating is an astronomic 80 percent. *Indianapolis Star* columnist Andrea Neal reports that Evan and Susan Bayh contributed $2,150 out of an income of $793,576, which she said was "three-tenths of 1 percent." Neal writes that Bayh's charitable numbers "are especially glaring in light of the following statistics: The average American household donates 2 percent." **Status:** *Likely D*

Congressional District 1 **Republican:** Mike Petyo. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky. **Geography:** Northern Lake, Porter County. **1994 results:** Visclosky 68,612, Larson 52,920. **1996 Results:** Visclosky 132,430, Petyo(R) 56,205, Crass (L) 3,122. **1998 Forecast:** This is the Democrats' safest CD here in Indiana. **Status:** *Solid D.*

Congressional District 2: **Republican:** U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. **Democrat:** New Castle Mayor Sherman Boles. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 132,238, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Forecast:** Boles is running an energetic campaign, trying to draw McIntosh out and get some earned media. McIntosh, meanwhile, seems to be concentrating on the marriage penalty bill in Congress and on his political action committee benefitting legislative candidates. It's hard to imagine that this race will tighten up. McIntosh says at a Muncie Boys and Girls Club, "I'm glad (Clinton) is at least retiring the debt and saving Social Security. The last time Clinton spent the surplus on spending programs (Rick Yencer, *Muncie Star Press*). **Status:** *Solid R.*

Congressional District 3: **Republican:** Dan Holtz. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer. **Geography:** South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Roemer 72,497, Burkett 58,787. **1996 Results:** Roemer 114,381, Zakas (R) 80,7[illegible]8, Taylor (L) 2,331. **1998 Forecast:** Regional press believe Holtz has matured as a political candidate; that primary loss in 1996 will help him this time around. Holtz's best bet is for an implosion at the White House that will set off the national tidal wave. Republicans historically had trouble defending this seat in off-year elections. John Hiler won it by only 74 votes in 1986. This may have to be seen as a two-cycle project for Republicans. **Status:** *Likely D.*

Congressional District 4 **Republican:** U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **Democrat:** Mark Wehrle. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Huntington, NE Indiana. **1994 results:** Souder 83,466, Long 65,956. **1996 Results:** Souder 118,344, Houseman (D) 76,152, Bisson (L) 4,743. **1998 Forecast:** Souder is in no trouble. Wehrle will not be properly funded and offers only token opposition. Souder calls on President Clinton to cancel his upcoming trip to China. "We are increasingly alarmed by reports concerning your administration's policy regarding the export of satellite technology," Souder said. **Status:** *Solid R.*

Congressional District 5: **Republican:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Democrat:** David Steele. **Geography:** Kokomo, Marion, Peru, Monticello, Lowell, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Buyer 108,575, Beatty 43,619, Alfred (L) 3,328. **1996 Results:** Buyer 1[illegible]3,604, Clark (D) 67,125, Lehman (L) 5,255. **1998 Forecast:** Democrats are really high on Steele. His problem is the 5th CD is such an unwieldy beast, spanning six media markets and 20 counties that it will be tough for him to run an effective TV campaign. Democrats are claiming that Buyer's support is soft in Kokomo, but we've not seen any evidence of that. We'll be watching to see if Steele can scrap and claw his way into this race. **Status:** *Solid R.*

Congressional District 6 **Republican:** U.S. Rep. Dan Burton. **Democrat:** Bob Kern. **Geography:** Greenfield, Franklin, Tipton, Indianapolis collar counties. **1994 results:** Burton 136,876, Bruner 40,815. **1996 Results:** Burton 189,461, Dillard Farnell (D) 58,362, Peterson (L) 5,295. **1998 Forecast:** Indiana Recount Commission decides to consider whether Bob Hidalgo Kern can be removed from the ballot due to

his felony convictions as well as using his grandfather's name. Indiana Democrats maintain Kern deceived voters by using an Anglo-sounding name and "its appearance on the ballot gave him an advantage." The *New York Times* wrote that "the slowly dawning news" in Indiana is that "state law bars convicted felons from all state offices but not service in Congress is producing a kind of post-primary tristesse that is revealing about the hometown politics of Washington power." The *Los Angeles Times* reports that the release of the Webster Hubbell tapes by Burton "provides the starkest view yet of evidence that continues to fuel Starr's high-stakes investigation of the Clintons." **Status**: *Solid R.*

Congressional District 7: **Republican**: U.S. Rep. Ed Pease. **Democrat:** Samuel "Dutch" Hillenburg. **Geography**: Terre Haute, Lafayette and Western Indiana. **1994 results:** Myers 104,359, Harmless 55,941. **1996 Results:** Pease 130,010, Hellmann (D) 72,705, Bourland (L) 7,125. **1998 Forecast:** Gov. O'Bannon singles out Pease for praise on the highway funding bill and the extra $212 million a year roadways will be absorbing. Now, Frank wouldn't do that if he figured there was any chance to beat Pease. **Status**: *Solid R.*

Congressional District 8: **Republican**: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Evansville Councilwoman Gail Riecken. **Geography**: Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **1994 results:** Hostettler 93,529, McCloskey 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Forecast:** GOP tracking data shows a 61/20 percent favorable/unfavorable rating for Hostettler and his re-elect at 52 percent. Republicans believe he is in good shape. We believe he will take another frontal assault from Riecken, who is doing everything right as a challenger to this point. Hostettler lauds the new highway funding formula that will pump $27 million for the Interstate-69 extension. "As the only quadrant of the state without a north-south interstate highway, Southwest Indiana has missed out on opportunities enjoyed by other parts of the state." The Republican called on President Clinton to postpone his trip to China. "In a time where the President opposes an anti-ballistic missile defense system for the United States it is absurd that he permits the sharing of sensitive U.S. technology with China that could directly enhance the Red Army's strategic missile capabilities against American cities," Hostettler said. Hostettler begins radio ad campaign in Bedford, Evansville, Linton, Paoli, Vincennes and Washington. Riecken's campaign said one station indicated the ad campaign would continue all summer. Riecken challenges Hostettler to a series of four debates, including one in Shoals on the Fourth of July. U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde, who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, will appear at a fund-raiser for Hostettler on June 8. **Status**: *Toss-Up.*

Congressional District 9: **Republican**: Jean Leising. **Democrat:** Baron Hill. **Geography**: New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **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. She really needs to turn that around and perhaps her 68 percent win over Bailey will help Washington Republicans to ante up. Chairman McDaniel was excited about winter polling results between Hill and Leising. **Status**: *Likely D.*

Congressional District 10: **Republican**: Gary Hofmeister. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Geography**: Indianapolis. **1994 results:** Jacobs (D) 58,573, Scott 50,998. **1996 Results:** Carson 90,869, Blankenbaker 72,796, St. Angelo (L) 3,505 . **1998 Forecast:** HPR Publisher Brian Howey in a *NUVO Newsweekly* article asked 10th CD Republican challenger Gary Hofmeister about a smear campaign against him that suggested he was abusive and aided his daughter in an abortion. Hofmeister responded, "My life hasn't been perfect, but there is nothing I am ashamed of; nothing to worry about. Everybody always said 'don't run if you don't want your life on the front page of the paper.'" Hofmeister said there had even been rumors regarding his own sexuality. *NUVO* pursued the angle of this story after Hofmeister's primary campaign themes were centered on the slogan "faith, family and freedom." As for the abortion rumor, Hofmeister said, "My daughter or I would never let the idea of an abortion enter our minds." Hofmeister acknowledged that while a video crew hired by U.S. Rep. Julia Carson shot tape at a Washington Township Republican Club meeting in 1997, Hofmeister said in front of Marvin Scott, "There are times in politics when you just have to call a spade a spade." Scott is African-American. Said Hofmeister, "That's true. I did say it. I'm an old man. I need to use a better term." He denied he used that phrase in reference to Scott or Carson. "People will see I am not a racist in any way." But he acknowledged, "No doubt, the race card will be played." As for using the WTHR-TV dilapidated house story against Carson, Hofmeister said, "We're not going to touch that. I don't even know and I don't even care. I don't think that should be part of it. Everything should be issue based." That prompted campaign manager Mike Young to say, "I don't think we should rule anything out." **Status**: *Leans D.*

✍ *Brian A. Howey*

TICKER TAPE

are leaders and you go to meetings where you visualize and strategize every day. But what we need to be thinking about is how we can expand this sense of community and how we are going to be responsible for it," Mrs. O'Bannon said. Asked about the economic and social impact of the 1992 race riots in Los Angeles, Mrs. O'Bannon observed, "One of the significant points about Watts is that the churches and community gardens weren't touched at all. That's because they had respect for the churches of which they were members. They cared about the community gardens because they had toiled there" (Jeannine Lee, Muncie Star Press).

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton said in a May 15 letter to AG Janet Reno on the topic of Johnny Chung and Democratic campaign contributions from the Chinese, "The serious national security implications of foreign government involvement in illegal campaign contributions demands all government agencies and all branches of government coordinate their efforts to find the truth."

U.S. District Court Judge John Tinder dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Indianapolis Minority Contractors Association. If it had gone to

continued on page 6

TICKER TAPE

trial, it could have embarrassed the administration of former Gov. Evan Bayh. The plaintiffs alleged that Indiana did not properly administer the contract program for minority and disadvantaged businesses that is part of the federally funded construction program. Tinder said the plaintiffs "have failed to establish, with specific facts, the legal grounds necessary to sustain their allegations." AG Jeff Modisett had said the lawsuit brought on by Harry Alford was meritless.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon is expected to make education a top priority in the 1999 session of the Indiana General Assembly. "The governor wants to reiterate that education is his top priority and get out and talk to people all across Indiana," said Steve Bella, director of planning and research. "He wants to develop a dialogue on how to improve education" (Associated Press). Potential legislation involves full-day kindergarten, teacher training and technology, and expanded alternative programs.

Congress approved a $204 billion transportation budget, which includes an average of $617 million per year in highway dollars for Indiana - up $212 million per year from the previous funding formula. The

continued on page 7

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

E. J. Dionne, *Washington Post* - In one of the smartest moves in some time, Gingrich chose Rep. Christopher Cox to head the inquiry. Cox, one of the most intelligent Republicans in the House, is unlikely to repeat the pratfalls and excesses that characterized the hearings led by Rep. Dan Burton. But if the House leadership seems interested only in finding a new campaign issue, the Cox inquiry will be Burtonized before it even gets off the ground. ✍

Harrison Ullmann, *NUVO Newsweekly* - And now comes Congressman Dan Burton, describing President Bill Clinton as a scumbag who should be impeached and exiled if just 10 percent of the rumors are true. So, maybe it's time we ask the congressman the same questions he wants the president to answer. ..Congressman Burton, have you ever engaged in extramarital sex of any sort while you campaigned for public office or while you served in the Indiana General Assembly or the United States Congress? Congressman Burton, have you ever engaged in abusive behavior of any sort with any members of your family? Congressman Burton, do you drink alcoholic beverages to excess? Congressman Burton, have you ever attempted to influence the legislative or administrative branches of the state or national governments in ways favorable to your foreign campaign contributors? Congressman Burton, does your competency to describe the President of the United States rest on the principle of It Takes One to Know One? ✍

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - In the primary election, only 24 percent of the local electorate showed up at the polls or cast an absentee ballot. That's the lowest turnout ever for an off-year primary election in Cass County. For the first time, fewer than one in five people who could vote did vote in a primary. America dispatches its officials such as Richard Lugar to other countries to monitor elections. Maybe it's time we start monitoring our own. In the heart of Indiana, the 6th Congressional District, voters nominated a convicted felon as the Democratic candidate to face incumbent Dan Burton. That's what happens when voters don't take their duty seriously, or just plain don't show up to do what they can. It's apathy at the polls that could be insulating our federal officials as well. For instance, a poll conducted by NBC and the *Wall Street Journal* recently found that 77 percent of voters favor campaign finance reform measures presented in the McCain-Feingold bill. But the bill failed to pass Congress, which has been asked to regulate itself. This is like asking Donald Trump to live on sea rations. Don't look for it to happen anytime soon. ✍

Larry Hayes, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - If Paul Helmke remembers to be himself, he could well have a shot at defeating Evan Bayh in the race for the U.S. Senate. Helmke is the real article, not only as a politician and a political junkie - but as a decent guy. He's open-minded, certainly no ideologue. Yet he has deeply felt values. His sincerity and smarts have been his greatest strengths as Fort Wayne's mayor. They're his greatest strengths as a politician. Helmke has his critics. But he doesn't see them as enemies. In his campaign, he went smack into hostile territory when he spoke before a gathering of the Christian Coalition in Indianapolis. This was Price territory. A straw poll gave him an astounding 80 percent of the vote. Helmke's count? A measly 3 percent, or, he joked, the votes of aides he brought along. Nevertheless, Helmke welcomed the chance to show the religious right that he's listen to their views and "they have nothing to fear from me." He admits his strategy for the campaign against former Gov. Evan Bayh is just forming in his mind. He's clear about his basic goal, though. He will try to draw Bayh out on the issues. Helmke acknowledges getting Bayh to commit himself on specifics will be tough. "He's kind of a cipher." ✍

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

A look into the intriguing Hoosier condition

INDIANAPOLIS - As we head into the Indiana political convention sequence of this mid-term election year, what is the state of Indiana?

Despite all the uncertainty about the Asian economies, Indiana stands at an apex. The question is whether it is a gradually rising plateau, or the peak, with everything down hill from here.

Indiana's unemployment rate is 3.3 percent, the lowest in 28 years and far below the national 4.3 percent rate. "We now have the strongest economy in more than a generation, which comes as a direct result of the leadership of President Clinton and the Democrats in Congress," said Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew. "In Indiana, for the first time ever, over three million people have jobs."

Many Hoosier Republicans believe the current strong economy is the result of the economic retrenchment under the Reagan-Bush presidencies.

There are two billion dollar auto plants - in Kokomo and Princeton - that are either coming on line or will do so in the near future. If the economy remains robust, there is no reason to believe that the employment numbers won't continue to increase.

But the mood here in Indiana - and its impact on the political scene - is much greater than simple job statistics. We detect a combination of a "can do" spirit along with a detachment of the political process.

This is most evident when the spectrum crosses Indiana's political parties. On one hand, GOP Chairman Mike McDaniel was savvy enough to bring the Republican National Committee's convention site selection committee to Indianapolis during the 500 race weekend. It was a bold move that certainly played to the emotions of the selectors. They watched the city almost effortlessly handle more than 300,000 people for the world's largest sporting event. It didn't hurt that they also witnessed the Indiana Pacers defeat the world champion Chicago Bulls last Saturday. Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy told HPR that one selector told her, "If we voted on emotion, the convention would come here."

The following Sunday, when Reggie Miller fired in a three-point game-winning shot with .7 of a second on the clock seemed to personify the current Hoosier audacity. There too, we saw a cultural apex. The people in this state, which has a nearly century-old history of love for the game of basketball, watched the greatest game ever played on Hoosier soil, featuring the greatest player, and, perhaps, two of its greatest coaches.

Yet, Coach Larry Bird's stoic face as Market Square Arena roiled in emotion wasn't unlike an economist watching with intensity at the Asian financial markets. Bird knew Michael Jordan still had .7 of a second to tie the game. Some of us know the same thing could happen to our economy.

Despite our successes, there are fears that nag our conscious. Our decrepit political system has brought us Bob Hidalgo Kern as a farce congressional candidate, while the incumbent Dan Burton seems to operate with reckless abandon. We still witness record homicide rates and staggering public schools in our capital. Across Indiana, we hear and see TV reports of church arsons - nine so far this year.

And in Merrillville earlier this week, regular folks from around the community got together and prayed - prompted by the notions of Jonesboro, Ark., Springfield, Ore., and Paducah, Ky. - notions that were once unfathomable.

There is optimism here in Indiana this election year. It gives many Hoosiers the luxury of not paying attention to politics; not going to the polls.

We'd like to think that maybe that's the way it will always be. But the logic in our hearts and minds tells us that it won't last. ✍

TICKER TAPE

bill guarantees 91 cents on the dollar returning to Indiana, compared to 78 cents prior. "I am thrilled that Indiana is set to receive this major increase in highway funds," Gov. O'Bannon said. "The additional federal funding, combined with our Crossroads 2000 program, will enable us to complete many needed transportation infrastructure projects in Indiana. Major projects funded include the Hoosier Heartland Highway, I-69 extension, I-70/Six Points interchange on the Marion-Hendricks County line, Ohio River bridges at Louisville, and the Lafayette railroad relocation. O'Bannon added, "My sincere thanks to the Indiana Congressional delegation, particularly Rep. Ed Pease for working hand-in-hand with me on this important issue."

Jack Kemp addressed 225 Evansville Republicans and urged them to "build a party that creates new opportunities for Americans" (Alan Julian, Evansville Courier). "If our party stands for people, they'll stand for us."

House Speaker John Gregg reminds HPR that Gov. Evan Bayh carried 97 out of 100 House Districts in 1992 - a notion that bodes well for Democrats to prevail in the House.

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

Former House Speaker J. Roberts Dailey is the new chairman of the Indiana Christian Coalition. His appointment was announced at a Statehouse press conference on Thursday.

Sorry folks, but the preliminary primary election results for legislative and congressional district races are still not available from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's office. Nor does it look like they will be for the foreseeable future. HPR will bring the preliminary results to you as soon as they are available.

House, *from page 2*

determined by razor thin margins. The third showdown between Democratic Rep. Vern Tincher and Republican David Lohr comes after the first two races were decided by less than 200 votes. In Richmond, Democratic State Rep. Dick Bodiker barely staved off Republican Dick Hamm by less than 100 votes in 1994. In Fort Wayne, Republican John Becker defeated Ben GiaQuinta by less than 50 votes in 1994, then lost in '96 to GiaQuinta by about 800 votes. Rep. Tiny Adams upset incumbent Republican James Vanleer in Muncie by about 400 votes in 1996. They will go at it again in November.

Control of the Indiana House could very well come down to those four races and a couple of thousand votes. The point is, both parties are going to need every doggone vote they can get in November.

The notion that Evan Bayh running at the top of the ticket and to the right of Paul Helmke while a small but active section of the evangelical bloc decides that maybe they'd like to see Speaker John Gregg returned to power is an intriguing notion.

Witwer, McIntosh get involved

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh officially announced on May 15 the Indiana Family & Freedom Committee with the goal of retaking the Indiana House.

Said McIntosh, "In 1996 the union bosses at the AFL-CIO and the teachers' union combined with the Democratic Party to pour millions of dollars into winning key swing legsilative districts. We cannot allow 1998 to be a repeat of 1996. Already Democrats under Gov. Frank O'Bannon's leadership, and with their allies within the AFL-CIO, trial lawyers and teachers union lobbies have more than $1.5 million in their warchests." McIntosh said there were "10 to 12 seats, now held by the Democrats, where voting patterns show there are a majority of Republican voters."

George Witwer, the 1996 LG nominee, has brought on former Republican AG candidate Greg Zoeller to head up the Opportunity Project of Indiana while Curt Smith, an aide to U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, heads up the OPI board.

Witwer hopes to pump in about $50,000 into Republican House campaigns. OPI already has contributed $3,000 to the primary campaign of Jen Ellington against Rep. Jerry Bales.

Witwer and OPI were instrumental in helping the Republican regain control of the House in 1994, when it contributed a similar amount of money into a dozen House races.

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

PO Box 20877
Indianapolis, IN
46220

Jack E. Howey 45
Newslink, Inc.
948 Orchid Pl
Perm IN 46970-3015