THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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Assessing Indiana's open 9th CD seat

Time may be running out for Leising to compete

By Mark Schoeff Jr.
Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - After losing her two previous attempts to win Indiana's 9th CD seat, Jean Leising said the 1998 race "feels different" and she is building momentum, despite trailing Democrat Baron Hill in fund-raising by more than $200,000 and being viewed in Washington as the underdog.

Leising clearly needs to raise much more money for the fall campaign. Help may come from Washington.

"There's every reason to believe that she'll be fully funded" by the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), said a party source in Washington. "Fully funded" means that the NRCC would allocate to Leising the entire $65,000 in coordinated funds that can be given to a candidate. Coordinated funds are defined as hard money. They are put directly into a candidate's campaign account, where they can used for television advertising and other activities that explicitly promote the candidate.

No decisions have been made by the NRCC regarding coordinated funds but the Indiana 9th "is a major target. It is an open seat and it's certainly the biggest seat in Indiana," said the GOP source. Republicans hold an 11-seat majority in the House of Representatives.

Pols in Indianapolis and the nation's capital may doubt Leising's ability to win the seat being vacated by longtime incumbent Rep. Lee Hamilton. But they're misguided, said Leising, a former state senator.

"There's a lot of excitement out there about this race. It feels really good," she said of her travels in the district. "I know in Washington and Indianapolis they laugh at me for saying that, but it feels different out there."

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"I am a conservative...."

- Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke, in his keynote address to the Indiana Republican Convention.

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TICKER TAPE

Gov. Frank O'Bannon was the object of some dubious press coverage this past week - for the first time in nearly a year. The Times of Northwest Indiana reported that O'Bannon had accepted almost $30,000 in campaign contributions from tobacco interests, including $12,500 in the final months of 1997. O'Bannon acknowledged that accepting contributions from big tobacco conflicted with his "children's agenda" as well as the lawsuit AG Jeff Modisett filed on Feb. 19, 1997, against U.S. cigarette makers. "The industry in the past was like Ford or General Motors or any other business. It's now becoming so evil that it makes

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9th CD, *from page 1*

Hill seems to have picked up where he left off in 1990, when he impressed the Washington and Indiana political communities by nearly upsetting incumbent Sen. Dan Coats. He got an early start in his 9th CD run, and has amassed a $319,567 cash balance compared to Leising's $16,923, according to the last Federal Election Commission filing. Washington Democrats praise Hill's organizational and fund-raising skills. He also is receiving strong backing from organized labor.

Although Leising won a contested primary handily with 68 percent of the vote, it drained money and time she could have spent on fund-raising for the general election. But now that she's survived that test, the general election against Hill may not be as daunting as her previous runs against Hamilton.

First of all, an open seat makes political organizations pay more attention. She's lining up endorsements earlier than in 1994 and 1996. The National Association of Manufacturers, the Business Industry Political Action Committee, the Association of Builders and Contractors, and the National Rifle Association are all on board.

In addition, Leising says she has commitments from House GOP leadership to come to the 9th CD. Members who have indicated they will headline fund-raisers include House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Tex.), House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), and the highest-ranking woman in the House leadership, Rep. Jennifer Dunn (R-Wash.).

This year may feel different to Leising, but leading political analysts in Washington are calling her the underdog. "She's made the cut of the top five or six dozen races that people are watching, but she's not in that top tier," said Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the *Rothenberg Political Report*. "She still has something to prove." Rothenberg said Leising must demonstrate more strength in polls, fund-raising and the "overall quality of her campaign."

Critical Democratic seat

The 9th CD seat is critical for Democrats, and that is helpful to Hill, said Amy Walter, House editor for the *Cook Political Report*. "We still consider Baron Hill the favorite. Democrats can't afford to lose this seat. When you need to pick up 11, you can't give one away," she said. Hill "is not lacking in support from Washington."

A Democratic Washington consultant

said that doubts about Leising are undermining her chances to make any fund-raising gains. "She's in danger of falling off the radar screen for Washington contributors," said Chris Sautter, who is 8th CD Democratic challenger Gail Riecken's media adviser. "They're beginning to treat Hill like the incumbent. There is a lot of competition for PAC and individual money, and that race is at the point where people are moving on."

Ohio Valley is a crucial region

The paper-thin GOP House majority, however, may keep attention focused on the 9th CD and other districts in the Ohio River Valley, said Mark Rozell, professor of political science at American University. "That region is going to be crucial to the composition of the House." Thomas Edsall, a *Washington Post* political reporter, made a similar analysis and highlighted the 9th CD in an article last week.

Hill hopes that the district avoids national attention. "I'd like the outsiders to stay outside, and let us do our work," he said. "I would just as soon Jean and I run a local campaign."

Both Hill and Leising emphasize that they will be vigorous in getting out and about in the district, shaking hands door-to-door and at festivals this summer. "I'm running like I'm 20 points behind," said Hill, a Merrill Lynch financial consultant. "I'm not excluding anybody" in his travels around the district.

Although he has a large fund-raising lead, Leising said Hill will have to spend some of that money raising his name identification. Her previous campaigns in the district have raised Leising's profile.

"Pundits in Indianapolis and Washington who favor Hill underestimate the fact that Jean Leising has worked at the grass-roots level for five years while Baron Hill has been a stock broker in Indianapolis," said Kevin Shaw Kellems, a Republican consultant who considered running in the 9th CD before deciding to back Leising. "She is reaping the benefits of thousands of miles of driving across a 21-county district."

The political orientation of the voters in that district is sure to be debated throughout the campaign. "In practice, it's a conservative district," said a Washington GOP fund-raiser. "Hill is clearly more liberal than Lee Hamilton."

Political labels don't mean much to Hill. "I'm in tune with the way most people in the district think," he said, adding Hoosiers in the 9th CD don't want to put the federal government out of business, they want to make it better.

"Most people would not want to eliminate the Department of Education or radically change Social Security or Medicare," Hill said. "They want a federal government that's more responsive and more efficient."

Leising said she will focus on reducing government spending and lowering taxes. She also will concentrate on social issues, such as opposing abortion rights and supporting gun rights.

Areas where Hill and Leising seem to be similar include Social Security and health care. Both say they want to strengthen the Social Security Trust Fund. Both candidates said they would focus on health care issues. "I'm concerned that efforts to hold down health care spending will jeopardize the quality of health care," said Leising, a licensed nurse.

The scandal wild card

A wildcard issue in 1998 may be White House scandals. If independent counsel Kenneth Starr can win some court rulings, it may assuage voters who think that Republicans are on a political witch hunt against President Clinton. "This investigation becomes much less of a political problem for Republicans should there be real evidence of misbehavior" by Clinton, said Prof. Rozell. It "depends on how the Starr investigation proceeds."

If the scandals make an impact anywhere in the state, it is likely to be in the 9th CD, said Kellems. "People may underestimate the impact of the Clinton White House scandals on conservative rural voters in the 9th district, where it is likely to resonate more strongly than in the rest of the state."

Sautter, however, said voters will punish the GOP at the polls "if the public thinks that Republicans are acting in a heavy-handed way."

Schoeff is HPR's Washington correspondent.

TICKER TAPE

big stories and headlines," O'Bannon said.

Gov. O'Bannon appeared before his Blue Ribbon Commission on taxes in an effort to "re-energize" the group that is falling prey to politics. "Your responsibility is to make the base of knowledge," said O'Bannon. "I will take the lead in proposing legislation." O'Bannon said he was looking for a "revenue neutral" plan which he wanted after the November election. He said he would announce his tax restructuring plan by the second week of December.

Rep. Jeff Espich, the ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee talked about "structural surpluses" and called for the commission to come up with a plan that included cuts "without off-setting tax increases." He said spending caps could return $600 million to $1 billion to taxpayers. Ways and Means Chairman Pat Bauer responded, "If it could have been done, the Republicans should have done it when they controlled both houses (Erik Hromadka, HPR).

Indiana University economist Morton Marcus appeared before Muncie business leaders and said of the Blue Ribbon commission, "It is the tax base that is really at issue.

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1998 Racing Form

Here's a great idea: Otis Cox against Gilroy

With Republican Brian Bishop's clerk of the court nomination secure (as we correctly forecast last edition) and Democrat Bob Hill's official entry into the auditor's race announced last Monday, the Statehouse races are now beginning to jell. The only suspense left is who the Democrats will annoint as the sacrificial lamb against Sue Anne Gilroy, who we see as about as safe as an incumbent can get.

HORSE RACE

With an eye on the fall, there are three main factors to assess in these races that tend to fall in a bunch. The first is who will likely have more durable coattails - Gilroy or Evan Bayh? Historically, Bayh's ability to sway voters is more potent when it comes to the legislature than the Statehouse. He helped Pam Carter win in 1992 and that's been about it. The fact that cross-dressing Democrat Bob Hidalgo Kern is on the ballot in the 6th CD - which takes in the collar counties - makes it very unlikely that even the most die-hard Democrats there will be voting a straight ticket and that will really hurt the Statehouse Democrats. We see Gilroy as having more impact on these offices because Hoosier voters tend to vote for Statehouse offices in a clump (unless you're a Democrat with the first name of "Otis"). Hey! There's a great idea. Get Otis Cox - now a Madison County commissioner - to run against Gilroy. He's won statewide before.

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.

Republicans will target

19th - Gasparovic v. Kuzman

34th - Vanleer v. Adams

46th - Lohr v. Tincher

56th - Paust v. Bodiker

80th - Becker v. GiaQuinta

97th - Schultz v. Mahern

Democrats will target

20th - Underly v. Budak

30th - Herrell v. Burkhardt

54th - Hamilton v. Saunders

60th - ?????? v. Ellington

94th - Bardon v. Marendt

Indiana Statehouse Races

Secretary of State: **Republican:** Sue Anne Gilroy. **Democrat:** Open. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Forecast:** Gilroy worked the convention as well as anyone. HFR saw her get several standing ovations after addressing the 4th and 10th CD caucuses. It is the worst kept political secret that Gilroy is positioning herself for the 2000 gubernatorial race and she is expected to lead the ticket. Who she will run against is the last remaining question of the summer. Democrats say they are talking with as many as three candidates, but won't confirm anyone, although '94 nominee Tim Jeffers is not in the mix. We see Gilroy as about as safe a bet as, well, Evan Bayh at this point. The big question is whether she can win more than 89 counties this time out. **Status:** *Solid Republican.*

Treasurer of State: **Republican:** Allen County Treasurer Tim Berry. **Democrat:** State Sen. Cleo Washington. **1994 Results:** Brinkman 848,303, Humphreys (D) 599,894, Dasbach (L) 25,665, Carr (A) 12,519. **1998 Forecast:** Berry will command formidable strength from Northeast Indiana, the same region that propelled Paul Helmke to the nomination from the same Fort Wayne power base. Washington is a rising star, a freshman state senator from South Bend, and will likely be the lone minority candidate in a statewide race. Despite all of that, it will be tough for him to break the Gilroy gravity force unless he can inextricably tie himself to Evan Bayh's fortunes. **Status:** *Leans Republican.*

Auditor of State: **Republican:** Connie Nass. **Democrat:** Bob Hill. **1994 Results:** Wooden (R) 888,721, Gonzalez (D) 513,452, Hauptmann (L) 20,349, Tirado (A) 10,786. **1998 Forecast:** Nass, the former mayor of Huntingburg, worked tirelessly for the LG nomination in 1996 and has been rewarded with this nomination. Her presence wipes away the embarrassment of Morris Wooden's controverisal tenure for the GOP. Hill has the banking credentials, but he is virtually unknown. **Status:** *Leans Republican.*

Clerk of the Court: **Republican:** Brian Bishop. **Democrat:** Doug Leatherbury. **1994 Results:** Okeson (R) 830,920, Wharry (D) 554,103, Dillon (L) 46,584, Propes (A) 14,742. **1998 Forecast:** Bishop seemed to come out of nowhere to gain the nomination, thanks to the support of his out-going boss, John Okeson. He faces Salem lawyer Doug Leatherbury, who like Nass has spent the last two years working the

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party circuit to tie up the nomination early. As with Washington, Leatherbury must tie himself to Evan Bayh and hope he can ride the wave. **Status:** *Leans Republican.*

U.S. Senate:

Republican: Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke. **Democrat:** Evan Bayh. **1992 Results:** Coats 1,267,972, Hogsett 900,148. **1998 Forecast:** The Bayh campaign seems gleeful about the way Helmke has come out of the blocks. They have let it be known they will make recent Helmke tax increases in Fort Wayne an issue. HPR talked to FW Councilman Don Schmidt, a Republican who has butted heads with Helmke in the past over taxes, to get the latest action in perspective. Schmidt said the garbage fee increase was a foregone conclusion, tied to the rate of inflation. He said the city ate the rate of inflation costs for two years and will now pass along a 45-cent a month increase. Another factor was the solid waste district upping its tipping fees, which were automatically passed on to the city. So Helmke may not be in bad shape on that one, although he can certainly expect a Bayh broadside on that issue in TV ads next fall. More problematic is the recent CEDIT tax hike that Helmke called for in his State of the City address last winter. It was set to go up .1 percent, but Helmke went along with a .2 percent hike to max it out at a .4 percent rate. As for Helmke's convention attack on Bayh over a $1,000 donation for Loral, Bayh spokesman Tom Sugar countered, "The very notion that Evan Bayh would be responsible for nuclear testing in Pakistan and Indian is faceless. It is particularly disappointing when he said he would be campaigning on front door issues." Sugar said that Loral has contributed nearly $370,000 to Republicans since 1996, including 26 GOP congressmen and senators this cycle alone. Both sides appear to be working toward a statewide televised debate, although Helmke would like more. Dan Quayle endorsed Helmke, stating, "Paul Helmke and I know about upsets. Paul upset a two-term Democrat mayor and I upset a three-term senator who happens to be the father of the current Democrat nominee. Conventional wisdom isn't going to win this one." **Status:** Likely D

Congressional District 6:

Republican: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton. **Democrat:** Bob Hidalgo Kern. **Geography:** Greenfield, Franklin, Tipton, Indianapolis collar counties. **1994 results:** Burton 136,876, Bruner 40,815. 1996 Results: Burton 189,461, Dillard-Tramell (D) 58,362, Peterson (L) 5,295. **1998 Forecast:** Indiana Recount Commission keeps Bob Hidalgo Kern on the ballot despite his felony convictions. What that does is create a golden opportunity for the Indiana Libertarian Party to come up with a candidate, fund that person and hope to make a decent showing. In any event, there is no way Rep. Burton will be defeated. **Status:** Solid R.

Indiana Legislative Races

House District 53:

Republican: Hancock Councilman Robert Cherry. **Democrat:** Sarah Wolf. **Geography:** Greenfield, Cumberland, Rushville, Hancock and Rush counties. **1994 Results:** Gulling (R) 13,945 unopposed. **1996 Results:** Gulling (R) 20,174 unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** This district has been a burr under our saddle, dagnabit! Horse Race couldn't get a primary read on it and Cherry defeated Mark Higgins rather handily when we figgered it might go down to the wire. Then we didn't include it in our Top 14 races a couple of issues ago even though Cherry will face former Rep. Sarah Wolf. Now, why in the wide world of sports would we do that? The Cherry forces are putting out some pretty convincing numbers that make us doubt how competitive this district will be no matter how good Wolf is. First is Cherry's impressive primary win. Second, as a Hancock County council candidate, he ran between 2,000 and 3,000 votes ahead of Bob Dole and Stephen Goldsmith in 1996. Back in 1992, when Cherry and Wolf ran for different offices, he out-polled her in 35 of 37 precincts. At the same time, Wolf ran about 15 percent behind Evan Bayh. Now, add an influx of conservative voters in western Hancock County fleeing Indianapolis in a 65 percent Republican district and the Bob Hildalgo Kern fiasco in the 6th CD which will severely cut into Democrats voting a straight ticket and you get a recipe for a fine, fine Cherry pie next November. In fairness to Wolf, she has a reputation as a hard campaigner and cannot be taken lightly. But... **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

✍ *Brian A. Howey*

TICKER TAPE

Every decision we make to narrow the base reduces the amount of money going to the government" (Brian Francisco, Muncie Star Press). Marcus added that figuring tax rates is "fourth grade arithmetic" and then said, "That's why the legislature can't deal with it."

A NUVO Newsweekly-TeleResearch Poll showed that Marion County residents have more faith in the IRS than they do in either the Indiana General Assembly or the Indianapolis City-County Council. It also showed Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's positive/negative ratings to be 40/40 percent.

Modisett may have set the tone for scores of other political candidates this year and leading into the 2000 election cycle as to whether they accept campaign contributions from tobacco interests. "You're taking money from an industry the state of Indiana is alleging - and intends to prove - has violated the law and has done so in a way that has led to the deaths of thousands of Hoosiers," said Modisett. The chances of Indiana's lawsuit proceeding in Marion Superior Court has dramatically increased now that the anti-tobacco legislation has stalled in the U.S. Senate and appears to be dead.

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TICKER TAPE

Indiana Democratic Executive Director Mike Harmless had this reaction to the Indiana Recount Commission's refusal to bump 6th CD nominee Bob Hidalgo Kern off the ballot: "I have no idea what that's going to do in that race. The comments I've heard from people are that it will be a pretty tough choice between Dan Burton and Bob Kern."

Marion County Sheriff Jack Cottey told the 10th CD caucus at the GOP convention that he now wishes the Republicans would have given Mary Catherine Barton $5,000 "for a radio campaign" in her primary race against presumed Democratic prosecutorial nominee Joe Champion, who won by under 500 votes. Barton has requested a recount.

Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel said he owes 10 years' worth of favors to people after he successfully procured floor level seats for the Republican National Committee's 2000 convention site selection committee for Game 3 of the Pacers-Bulls play-offs. McDaniel also arranged for the selectors to take a lap around the Indianapolis 500 an hour before the race began, meet winner Eddie Cheever, and scores of other favors. Many believe the city of Indianapolis

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Harrison Ullmann, *NUVO Newsweekly* - The Second Amendment is not the only useless furniture in our constitutional attic. There's the Third Amendment: "No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law." The kings used to do such things, boarding soldiers with civilians. But governments no longer do this, not even in the Evil Empire, not even when there are no constitutions nor courts to keep them from doing it. But unlike the Second Amendment, the Third is a harmless relic. Innocent people are not being murdered by crazies who think it means they may shoot down meter readers from the government's gas company or uniformed mail carriers who come up the walk. As a matter of fact, we do not argue that the slaughter of the innocents is an essential price that we must pay for any of the other rights we take from our Constitution - not even the useful rights to vote, to have a trial by jury, to be free of slavery, not even the essential rights to oppose the government that comes to us from the First Amendment. But would we defend any of these rights if they were invoked for the useless slaughter like we get from the useless Second Amendment? Would you forgive murder in your neighborhood if the murder was done for the cause of your constitutional right to engage in interstate commerce? ✍

Brian Howey, *HPR* - The scene was a truly wholesome one. Three hundred or so kids (including my two sons) at Fox Hill Elementary School had joined together on the last day of class to honor those who had excelled academically, or who had perfect attendance. There were speeches and music, dances by the mascot, and a send-off for the fifth graders who would be moving on to middle school. It was everything a parent wants to see in a thriving center of learning. Yet, there was a deep dark thought in the back of my mind: Thank God this school year is over. The reason comes from a litany of normal towns across America - Jonesboro, Springfield, Paducah - where schools that were once like Fox Hill became brutal killing fields. One minute they were normal havens of education, the next the center of CNN live coverage of ambulances and cops, bloodied boys and girls, premature heroes, and candlelight vigils. As school closes for the summer here in the Hoosier state, there is an exhaling of relief that no Indiana city has joined the letting of blood in cafeterias or on playgrounds after fire drills. Yet, it hasn't actually been a normal year either. Several students were arrested at Mississinewa High School in Gas City a few weeks ago after deadly threats were made to another classmate. There was a shooting at a high school football game in Gary. Last winter, Indianapolis Public Schools announced it would be randomly scanning elementary school kids for guns after several incidents of youngsters bringing firearms to class. ✍

Mike Pence, *Village Sampler* - Unless you were among the 17 percent of Hoosiers who bothered to vote during the 1998 primary last month, you may not have even noticed what happened. From races for the U.S. Senate to the Marion County prosecutor, the election was an example of "bizarro" politics - how politics would look to an alternative universe. Take the U.S. Senate primary. The candidate who enjoyed the virtually unanimous endorsement of state GOP leaders came in third out of three. The pachyderms managed to nominate (with a stunning 35 percent of the vote) the only Republican in America closer to Bill Clinton than Evan Bayh - Mayor Paul Helmke of Fort Wayne. But the insanity was not limited to the GOP. The Democratic nominee in Dan Burton's district, Bob Kern, in a convicted felon. Why not let the political parties select their nominees at a convention like the good old days. Why do we even go to the expense (and noise) of primary election campaigns when the option of having a bunch of party animals meeting at the Convention Center is available? ✍

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

At Helmke's big moment, the delegates droned on

INDIANAPOLIS - There was this loud, droning noise behind my back and to my sides. As I peered over my shoulders from the press table at the Republican State Convention while Paul Helmke spoke, I could see several hundred Republicans yakking away toward the back of the room, impervious to what should have been the day's most dramatic moment.

Here was Fort Wayne Mayor Helmke, the Republican U.S. Senate nominee, joining a long line of Grand Old Party's excellent pedigree - Lugar, Coats, Quayle, Roudebush, Ruckleshaus, Capehart. Even the losers of this group of men - the incumbent Homer Capehart losing to Birch Bayh, Dick Roudebush coming within an eyelash of Vance Hartke in 1970, and Ruckleshaus, the future hero of Watergate and the bold warrior of big business and environment - stand tall in the light of history. Both Roudebush and Ruckleshaus became senior federal officials.

All eyes and ears of every thinking Republican should have been latching on to every Helmke word. "I've been a Republican all my life"... "I am a conservative"... "Did you know that this same money and cast of characters, not just Huang but also Loral, gave to Evan Bayh?"

It was a strange scene. How well Helmke does against Evan Bayh could have a significant impact on scores of other Indiana races. If Helmke can pull within striking distance of Bayh he'll find himself in a national race with national attention and money. Yet here was Helmke going over the basics - his early party background and his conservative credentials, just as he had done at countless primary events in the months before.

It wasn't until the second half of the speech that Helmke finally took on Evan Bayh when he suggested U.S. national security had been jeopardized by allegedly trading missile technology for Democratic campaign contributions. Did you know, he asked, that Loral had given money to Evan Bayh?

That newsworthy allegation was buried under Mary Beth Schneider's lead in the *Indianapolis Star* that read, "It's not every candidate who has to reassure his own party that he's one of them."

The *South Bend Tribune's* Jack Colwell and Susan Dillman reported it like this: "Put simply, Republican Senate nominee Paul Helmke is trying to convince members of his own party that he's a Republican and Evan Bayh isn't." The Loral link to Bayh wasn't covered until the seventh paragraph.

The *Tribune* quoted out-going Sen. Dan Coats in the sixth graph saying that Helmke "should make embattled President Clinton a major campaign issue."

Prior to the speech, Mark Helmke was talking even tougher than his brother. "Here is a guy who has raised a ton of money from special interests. He got money from Loral. Hoosiers are going to demand to know whether he's been bought off like Clinton-Gore on this missile deal."

At this writing, no one in the Indiana news media had gotten to Evan Bayh for a comment about the $1,000 Loral donation. Bayh spokesman Tom Sugar told the *Star* that the allegations were "ridiculous on the face of it."

The backdrop to this was a poll commissioned by the Republican State Committee that had Bayh up by a 55-31 percent margin. Republican sources say that represents an 8 percent bump from the primary for Helmke. But the critical question is this: If Helmke had used the momentum from his primary victory to wage an issue assault on Evan Bayh and draw him into the mix, would that 24 percent margin have dwindled even further?

Instead of his convention coverage centering on whether he is truly a conservative and a Republican; instead of his keynote speech talking about his resume as he did so

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TICKER TAPE

has an excellent chance of landing the 2000 convention after they saw the city flawlessly handle 300,000 people on race weekend. But that didn't stop national Chairman Jim Nickolson from telling the media in Philadelphia after a visit there last week that that city "has it."

Jack Colwell of the South Bend Tribune asked State Sen. Joe Zakas if he thought Paul Helmke could defeat Evan Bayh in the U.S. Senate race. Zakas responded, "Stranger things have happened."

The Tribune's Susan Dillman quoted State Rep. David Wolkins at the GOP convention observing of Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy, "She's our next governor candidate. No doubt in my mind."

Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine, in his introduction of Sen. Dan Coats at the convention, said, "There is no doubt in my mind that if Dan Coats had run, he would have kicked Evan Bayh's butt."

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler and Democratic challenger Gail Riecken have agreed to a Lincoln-Douglas style debate in Shoals, Ind., on the Fourth of July. Also, Riecken called on Hostettler to support a "Patients' Bill of Rights" that

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TICKER TAPE

would reduce the role of insurance companies in health care decisions.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will appear at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis on June 22 to campaign for Indiana congressional candidates Baron Hill, Riecken and U.S. Rep. Julia Carson.

HPR is still awaiting the Election Division of the Secretary of State's office to make available preliminary results from the 125 legislative primary races that occurred almost six weeks ago. A spokesman for Secretary of State Gilroy said the results would be available "next week." ✍

Helmke, *from page 7*

often in the primary campaign, Helmke might have attracted the attention on a real hot issue. As it turns out, the issue was buried and time is running out.

HPR fully expects Evan Bayh to do whatever he can do to stay out of the line of fire this summer, build on what is now close to a $4 million war chest, then blast Helmke out of the water beginning in late summer.

Mark Helmke told HPR on the convention floor, "We have things to say. We have lots of questions about Evan Bayh."

He said that Paul Helmke will be talking about "front porch" issues of crime, education and safety and "how local communities fared during the do-nothing Bayh years and how they had to deal with problems Bayh pushed on to local communities."

As far as fund-raising, Mark Helmke said his brother is "moving along at a very good clip" but wouldn't speculate on how much money the campaign might report on June 30. A letter from Sens. Dan Coats and Richard Lugar was sent to 17,000 donors asking them to write a check. Helmke campaign manager Peter Sieg told the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* that as of last Friday about 20 donations - "most less than $200" - had arrived. Reporter Sylvia Smith wrote, "Without saying so directly, Lugar and Coats reminded Republicans that a sometimes wayward Republican is better than any Democrat." She went on to quote the Lugar-Coats letter as saying, "So much in the Senate depends on which party controls a majority. This determines the agenda, committee chairmanships, the nomination process and virtually every other substantive decision the body makes."

Another critical infusion of cash Helmke is seeking comes in the form of Coats' own war chest, said to be more than $400,000. Mark Helmke said the campaign is "working with Senatorial committee lawyers to find out how to do it. He just can't write a check today."

So in this early stage of the summer sequence, Helmke is somewhat passively working to carve an image for himself and take the issues to Evan Bayh. The key question is whether anyone will be listening.

SENATORIAL NOTES: Mark Helmke tried to set up a meeting with Tom Sugar to talk about a debate schedule. He said Sugar couldn't meet because of his "fluid" schedule. The Helmke campaign is seeking a series of debates - one in each congressional district. The Bayh campaign appears to be talking about one "big" debate. ✍

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