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 20877
Indianapolis, IN 46220

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

Business office: 317-926-0204

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 317-926-0204.

© 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.*

Hillary Clinton's double-edged sword

First Lady's Indy visit buoys Carson, Hill, Riecken

INDIANAPOLIS - She is the American Evita.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is certainly the most controversial wife of a president since Eleanor Roosevelt. Her fingerprints seem to be all over every facet of the White House legal problems - except for Monica Lewinsky and Paula Jones. Her 1995 health care initiative was a disaster of such severe proportions that the Democratic Party lost control of the House after a 40-year reign.

Yet, there were Hoosier congressional candidates - U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Baron Hill and Gail Riecken - basking in the glow of an electrified room at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis on Monday with Mrs. Clinton on the dais. None of them expressed a bit of an apprehension about being seen with Mrs. Clinton in a campaign context even though the one element that could doom them all on Election Day is the first couple ignoring a smoking gun, digging in their heels, and taking the party down with them.

"Indiana is a key state in the battle for control of the House," said U.S. Rep. Martin Frost of Texas of the event that will raise $150,000 to be evenly split by the three campaigns. "Mrs. Clinton's visit to Indiana and her hard work throughout the country to help Democratic candidates is playing a major role in winning a new Democratic majority and returning a common sense mainstream agenda to the House."

Appearing under a huge red banner with the candidates' names stamped near a welcome for the First Lady, Hill intoned, "Mrs. Clinton, I don't know about you, but I don't think Indiana is a real Republican state. Tell Dan Rather you saw a bunch of Democrats."

Said Carson, "This is a great honor for all of Indiana. The First Lady's concern for the children of working Americans is legendary."

These scenes came on a day when Carson's opponent, Republican Gary Hofmeister, released polling data from GOP pollster

Continued on page 2

"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"It's a great opportunity. Expectations will be so low that I can enjoy the campaign..."

- Cheryl Little, South Bend activist whom the Democrats recruited t run f r secretary of state, t Jack C lwell in the South Bend Tribune

INSIDE FEATURES

- **Bob Lang on Chinese and Democrats** **page 2**
- **Ticker Tape: Evansville mayoral race opens up** **page 2**
- **Horse Race: Little, Welch ante up** **pages 4-5**
- **Columnists: Ullmann, Shores, Smith** **page 6**
- **Perhaps We Wander: Tobacco politics** **page 7**

TICKER TAPE

It may have been the most secret negotiation in the history of the state when Indianapolis Public Schools, six Marion County township districts, the U.S. Department of Justice, the mayor of Indianapolis and the Indiana attorney general sat down to draw up an order ending the federal court desegregation order in Indianapolis. The plan features a 13-year phase-out along with a housing initiative to increase minority populations in the townships.

Evansville Mayor Frank McDonald has announced that he will not seek a record fourth term in 1999. "I've seen too many people who continue to run

Continued on page 3

Hillary Clinton, *from page 1*

Kellyanne Fitzpatrick that showed him with a 44-38 percent lead (See Horse Race). "This race is a toss-up," Fitzpatrick said.

Other ominous news for Democrats was delivered by Washington analyst Stuart Rothenberg in Roll Call. "If voters regard the elections as a referendum on the nation's political leaders, current economic conditions and Congress's past accomplisments ... then the two parties will break about even and the Republicans will hold onto the House."

Retrospective voting

That is what Prof. Morris Fiorina of Harvard University calls "restrospective voting." Its contrast is "prospective voting" where Democrats could steer voters into thinking about a new national agenda based on such issues as tobacco, education, campaign finance reform and HMO regulation. "If that prospective voting happens, the Republican majority is much less secure."

The significance of Mrs. Clinton's visit - aside from the money - was how she articulated what will be the party line for Democrats both here in Indiana and around the country.

In the retrospective sense, Mrs. Clinton said the Democrats deserve credit for "the lowest crime rate in 25 years, the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, the lowest welfare rolls in 29 years, the first balanced budget in 40 years, the lowest inflation rate in 32 years, the smallest federal government in 35 years."

"We know the American people deserve credit," said Mrs. Clinton. "But it makes a difference who your leaders are. Bill Clinton's policies have made a big difference."

That in itself is an unprecedented alignment of all the economic and social planets. The problem is that Republicans will express keen outrage at the Clintons for taking credit for all that good news. And they're right. Without the GOP-controlled Congress that Hillary Clinton created in 1994, there wouldn't have been comprehensive welfare and agriculture reform, balanced budget (without a tax increase) and the low inflation rate.

Clinton and the Democrats can take credit for placing 77,000 new police officers on the streets (he called for 100,000) with a little help from Republican New York City Mayor Rudolph Guiliani. Democrats - particularly Carson - could use Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith as a poster boy for the crime problem as the capital city's homicide rate is headed for another record.

Prospective voting

On the prospective side, Mrs. Clinton set out the agenda for Democratic campaigners this fall: designating the budget surplus to fund Social Security; investing in education by hiring 100,000 more teachers; and getting the rest of the police hired.

It sounds great, but some of it sounded utopian. On child care, Mrs. Clinton talked about providing the best solutions so that parents could be with their kids more.

The one phrase she uttered that had to send out a brief flash of alarm to the assembled 500 Democrats was: "Think about health care...."

The room leaned into the question before Mrs. Clinton launched into HMO reform. "There needs to be a balance between patients' and financial considerations," she said.

A historic figure

To be there in that room was to witness a historic figure of Shakespearean proportions hit the stump on behalf of her husband and the party they need to protect their power. It was a splendid performance by the American Evita. Mrs. Clinton called for aid for the weak, more wisdom, laying out a common sense agenda, and beating the drum for her embattled husband under fire for betraying his fidelity.

But this incredible moment had a twinge of unease to it. Security seemed too lax (for instance, no one checked out the cell phone I had in my pocket and a Secret Service clearance wasn't required). The destruction of Asian markets and Clinton's move to prop up the yen seem like first steps into an unfolding financial downturn. If that happens, President Clinton's popularity will dive.

There is the tobacco deal. Democrats will try and use it against Republicans this fall after the tobacco bill died in the Senate. The treacherous part of the terrain for Democrats is that the final bill was so laden with new taxes, pork and spending that Republicans will have a reasonable defense when they return home to campaign.

Then there is the investigation by Kenneth Starr. This prosecutor seems utterly bent on self-destruction and minimalization. Yet the late *New York Daily News* trial writer Theo Wilson (who once worked at the *Evansville Press*) always had an admonition about covering legal proceedings. "Never pay any attention to what happens outside of the court room," Wilson would often say. The point is, nothing surrounding Whitewater and Lewinsky with regard to the Clintons has happened in the court room. It has been a Washington version of the O.J. Simpson trial where strategy is carried out on the street and in front of a battery of cameras.

It is hard to say how the Starr investigation will turn out at this point, but it has the potential to be devastating to either party.

The constant reminder for the Hoosier press corps was Mrs. Clinton's refusal to take questions from reporters. That is mirrored by her husband's behavior. Bill Clinton has become one of the most inaccessible presidents in modern times.

It was fascinating to watch Hillary Clinton play to her supporters. The only remnant of the "vast right-wing conspiracy" was isolated on a riser in the press corps. She told the crowd to "say no to extremists and obstructionists." And she correctly intoned, "If average Hoosiers stay home, we know who will go to the polls - the most extreme group among us. We need you to actively speak to as many people as you can."

The irony is that the Democratic catastrophe in 1994 was caused by Hillary Clinton's health care initiative that many felt was too extreme. Republicans seized control of the Houses both nationally and in Indiana because Democrats stayed home.

Kenneth Starr's preliminary report was to have been delivered to Congress by now. That it hasn't come prolongs the uncertainty of how the politics of 1998 will ultimately turn out.

Hillary Clinton - the motivating speaker who can electrify the room - represents a double-edged sword for Democrats. It is not out of the range of possibility that the opponents of Carson, Hill and Riecken may use Monday's video against them.

We'll just have to wait and see. ✍

TICKER TAPE

just to be running," said McDonald (Alan Julian, Evansville Courier). The announcement set off immediate jostling for position. Democrats considering the race include former Vanderburgh County Commissioner Rick Borries, and city Councilman Curt John and county Councilman Phil Hoy. Republicans possibly in the hunt include county Councilman Russell Lloyd Jr., city Councilman Taylor Payne, and Bettye Lou Jerrel. Lloyd's father served two terms as mayor and was murdered by a disgruntled constituent after he had left office. "It's not a total shock to me, but the timing is kind of surprising," Lloyd said.

Former Indiana Congressman Jim Jontz is now the director of the Americans for Democratic Action, the liberal lobbying group founded by Eleanor Roosevelt.

Allen County Democrats are seeking delegates to fill their convention allotment for the July 11 event. The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette ran a story which sought people to apply for delegate positions.

U.S. Sen Richard Lugar is calling for Congress to give President Clinton fast track trade authority so the U.S. is in better position in Africa. "I

continued on page 5

© 1998. Copying or faxing this report is prohibited by law.

1998 Racing Form

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 - Welch v. Ellington

94th - Bardon v. Marendt

Little, Welch fill out the last of the significant races

HORSE RACE

The last race has been set. Indiana Democrats have recruited Cheryl Little of South Bend to run for Secretary of State. They have also nabbed Peggy Welch to run against Republican Jeff Ellington in House District 60. While other legislative districts will have additional slated candidates, the emergence of Welch and Little fill out the race card that will have any consequence on the statewide power structure this November. While Little has virtually no chance at winning, Welch might have a shot at Ellington if Jerry Bales wants to sabotage his primary opponent. That could be the race for ultimate control of the House. Democrats are forgetting that House Majority Leader Paul Mannweiler personally campaigned for Bales. Mannweiler might be able to prevail over Bales to get behind Ellington and help the GOP gain control of the chamber.

The other significant development in the Indiana House was the resignation of State Rep. John Keeler in House District 86. There is no chance for a Democratic pickup, however. Keeler won the last mid-term election by a 9,000-vote margin. Names we're hearing as a possible successor are Jim Aterholt, who runs U.S. Rep. Dan Burton's district office, Judy Singleton of the Lugar Series, and Bill Soards. Party sources tell HPR that a deal is in the works to have Soards succeed Gordon Gilmer on the Marion City-County Council. Those sources expect Aterholt to win a caucus.

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.

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:** Cheryl Little, a South Bend civic leader, is the Democrats' sacrificial lamb against Gilroy. Little was to have run U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer's campaign this fall. She ran for the South Bend City Council in 1995 in a district the Democrats hadn't won in 36 years and lost by only 110 votes. Little told the South Bend Tribune, "I'm very optimistic. I wouldn't be going into this if I didn't think I had a chance. It's a great opportunity. Expectations will be so low that I can enjoy the campaign." She is 53 years old and was appointed by Gov. Evan Bayh to serve on the Indiana Higher Education Commission. Gilroy came under fire from Democrats for using a state supported Internet server at Indiana University as part of her campaign web page. Democrats have no chance at winning this seat, web server or not. **Status:** Solid Republican.

Congressional Races

U.S. Senate: Republican: Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke. **Democrat:** Evan Bayh. **1992 Results:** Coats 1,267,972, Hogsett 900,148. **1998 Forecast:** Good news for Helmke is he's been getting some press around the state over the smoking ordinance story. And Fort Wayne was named an All-American city. "This award confirms what the citizens of Fort Wayne have always known - our community is one of the best in the nation," Helmke said. Helmke also is ending his year-old stint as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The negative note for Helmke is that he isn't engaging Evan Bayh, and Evan Bayh is keeping a low profile. A huge milestone for the Helmke campaign will be the June 30 FEC reports. He needs to show some real strides on the money front or the Washington power brokers are going to write this race off. **Status:** Likely D.

 © 1998. Copying or faxing this report is prohibited by law.

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:** This was the Hostettler campaign's take on Hillary Clinton's appearance with Riecken: "You can tell a lot about a candidate by the kinds of people he or she campaigns with. Gail is certainly showing her true liberal colors," said campaign chairman Jeff Knight. Noting that the event took place in Indianapolis, Knight added, "I think it's very telling that Gail Riecken does not want to bring Hillary Clinton anywhere near Southwestern Indiana. The people of this district do not share Mrs. Clinton's desire to nationalize large segments of the U.S. economy." Riecken will take home about $50,000 from the Clinton visit. Hostettler's office has been shooting out an array of press releases announcing grants for miners, erosion projects, and the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center. Riecken announced a six-point plan to reform HMOs that includes a guarantee that all medical decisions be made by doctors, not insurance companies (Jane McManus, *Evansville Press*). Hostettler announced that House Majority Leader Dick Armey will attend a fundraiser at the Oliver Winery at noon on June 27. That is a departure from the typical Hostettler event that is normally alcohol free. Hostettler and Riecken face off in the Great Catfish Debate for the 8th in Shoals at 1 p.m. July 4. The site for the debate will be on a gypsum-hauling semi trailer located on Main Street in downtown Shoals with straw bales as seating for the candidate, said Stephen Deckard, publisher of The Shoals News. He adds, "The smell of catfish cookin' across the street will no doubt add to the uniqueness of the debate setting." **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:** June 30 FEC reporting will be crucial to Leising, who needs to show significant strides there in order to get her race targeted. Democratic 9th CD Chairman Mike Jones tells HPR he believes Leising's fundraising has picked up and said, "This is going to be a race." **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:** Hofmeister releases poll by Kellyanne Fitzpatrick showing him winning a head-to-head with Carson 43-38 percent (June 15-15,300 respondents, +/- 5.7 percent). Polls says that 33 percent would support "any other candidate" than Carson. Poll also shows the district is 63 percent pro-life. Carson spoke on the floor of the House against the proposed constitutional amendment allowing school prayer. "If we would acknowledge God, let us do so in our hearts and in our homes," Carson said. "The government should not provide support for religion." Carson also quoted Jesus in the book of Matthew, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." **Status:** *TOSS-UP.*

Indiana House Races

House District 60: **Republican:** Jeff Ellington. **Democrat:** Peggy Welch. **Geography:** Bloomington, Bloomfield, Lawrence, Greene and Monroe counties. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Forecast:** Democrats will run Peggy Welch, a former staffer for U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.). She is the former director of the Monroe County Community Corrections division and a nurse at Bloomington Hospital. While she has never run for office before, Democrats call her a "conservative Democrat." Indiana Democrats are hoping Welch will appeal to disgruntled independent and Republican Jerry Bales supporters who see Jeff Ellington as a right-winger. This district is 58/42 Republican, so conventional wisdom says Ellington wins. But he's won two elections by a total of less than 25 votes and a lack of support from Bales voters could make this a tight race. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

✍ *Brian A. Howey*

TICKER TAPE

believe it is crucial that Congress vote on fast track this summer and I will introduce legislation in the hope of spurring Senate action," Lugar said.

The U.S. Department of Labor sent out a press release that had Vice President Al Gore and Labor Secretary Alexis Herman announcing Indiana's share of a $2.2 billion welfare-to-work grant. The Indiana portion is $14.5 million and will be used by IMPACT, the state welfare program. The grant will be used to help absentee fathers get jobs so they can pay child support, help families with multiple barriers get to work, and assist long-term recipients "who have exhausted their benefits." Said Gov. O'Bannon, "These federal dollars will help us reach out to non-custodial parents who are in desperate need of help but under the current system are ineligible for these programs. There are jobs available. So if we can get them trained and then get them the personal skills to stay with the work, then we've accomplished a lot."

Indiana's unemployment rate was 2.9 percent for April, compared to 4.1 percent for the nation.

The Indiana Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in

continued on page 6

© 1998. Copying or faxing this report is prohibited by law.

TICKER TAPE

the landmark property tax case Town of St.John v.The State Board of Tax Commissioners at 1:30 p.m. Sept.8.The Indiana Tax Court ruled in 1997 that state's property tax system was unconstitutional.

Gov.O'Bannon was to greet 200 Harley-Davidson riders including Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson.They are riding to Washington to commemorate Wisconsin's 150th anniversary and the 95th birthday of Harley-Davidson.

Gov.O'Bannon has appointed Larry W.Grau as his executive assistant for education.He replaces former State Sen. Kathy Smith, who resigned to become governmental liaison for Indiana University. Finally, on the O'Bannon front, responding to angry constituents, the governor has asked for a review of state Medicaid payments to Viagra users.The state has paid out more than $3,000 for far for the anti-impotency drug.

U.S.Rep.Dan Burton has offered to make several changes to his House Government Reform and Oversight Committee rules and procedures. Roll Call calls it Burton's effort to "get his stalled campaign finance investigation back on track

continued on page 7

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Harrison Ullmann, *NUVO Newsweekly* - I wrote a couple of weeks ago that the Second Amendment had become a useless piece of trash in American's constitutional attic and that we should get rid of it before anyone else gets hurt. But that's just my opinion which, as it happens, is as good as yours. As it also happens, your opinions are as good as mine. Except here, in this part of NUVO. This is my space and I get the last word in all the fights, including those I am about to pick. If you don't like it, then write some more stupid letters and we'll print them on NUVO's letters page, just like the stupid letters I'm quoting here. Robert Braun writes: "One of the first acts of Hitler's government was to round up and register all privately owned weapons." So, what's the point, Braun? Are you telling me that gun control causes Volkswagens? Or that if we get a little gun control in America, then it won't be long before we'll be invading Poland? Actually, the first thing dictators do is take over the telephone company, the newspapers, the radio and television stations. Tyrants are more worried about words than guns. Braun also writes: "All of your gunless victories were won because the aggressor was afraid of the response of armed opposition governments." I annoyed Braun when I wrote that the successful revolutions in our own time - like the uprisings that destroyed the former Evil Empire - were won by gunless people in countries that were not covered by the Second Amendment. They had no guns, but in the end they didn't need any guns. They won when they asserted the rights we gave ourselves in the First Amendment, not the Second Amendment. ✍

Larry Shores, *Muncie Star Press* - There they sat, Mr. Right and Mr. Wrong. The Saint and the Sinner. Mozart and Metallica. Depending on one's viewpoint, the two men debating the issue of gun control were either divinely intelligent or devilishly ignorant. There couldn't be a lot of middle ground between Rev. Jesse Jackson, espouser of liberal causes, and Wayne LaPierre, spokesman for the National Rifle Association, an unyielding conservative group. Their venue was Jackson's Both Sides program seen Sundays on CNN. The format was your basic debate on seemingly unresolvable issues. This Sunday was no different. Specifically, they were looking at the role of guns in school violence. Jackson pounded away on the accessibility angle, stateing that if there weren't so many guns and they weren't so handy, we'd have fewer people gunned down in our schools. LaPierre clung to an enforcement defense, claiming that kids take guns to school because it's a no-risk deal. Typically, there's little history of effective punishment when such youths break laws or violate school policy, he said. The two seemed in accord that media glorification of violence is the petri dish for this sick new culture that is resistant to conventional control. When violence is shown as the norm day after day after day, disturbed youths who have trouble separating reality from fiction act out this conflict by picking up guns to settle whatever feuds they've encountered or slights they've suffered. ✍

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - How expensive is a principle? It's not usually a question with a monetary answer. Can you put a price tag, after all, on truthfulness? How about a dollar value on courage or loyalty? After Rep. Mark Souder voted against the highway bill, however, some in Indiana are saying it's easy to assign a cost to the principle that drove his vote: About $12 million. That's the minimum amount northeast Indiana probably would have gotten in special highway money (read "pork") if Souder had vigorously fought for it and had voted for the bill. He didn't. Not only that, he asked President Clinton to veto the bill. "I find it downright embarrassing that in 40 years of Democratic control, Congress spent $10 billion in highway set-asides. But in one year, we spent $9 billion. "I appreciate principle," one Hoosier transportation consultant told me. "But what price did we pay for his principles?" ✍

PERHAPS.. WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Big Tobacco becomes a Big Issue on a variety of Hoosier fronts

FORT WAYNE - From Fort Wayne, to Indianapolis, to Washington, the battle over tobacco's place in a modern society has sent reverberations across the Hoosier political spectrum.

In one week's time, Gov. Frank O'Bannon announced he would return $30,000 in campaign contributions from tobacco interests, the Republican-led Fort Wayne City Council passed two anti-smoking ordinances and Senate nominee Mayor Paul Helmke vetoed one of them and braced for an override. Then U.S. Sens. Dick Lugar and Dan Coats voted in the 53-46 majority to kill the historic tobacco bill that would have levied a $1.10 tax on every pack of cigarettes.

Republicans caught up in this mix relied on ideology to explain their positions. When Helmke vetoed an ordinance calling for a ban of tobacco in restaurants and bars, he said, "As much as possible I believe that the market should determine the action of businesses and government should regulate as little as possible and only when necessary. Eating in a restaurant that allows smoking is not a necessity, it is an individual choice."

In signing the workplace ban on smoking, Helmke said that citizens "have no choice - they must work in order to earn a living."

Sen. Coats said he voted against the federal tobacco deal last week because, spokesman Matt Smith said, "it had gotten out of control" having turned into a massive tax increase while straying away from the goal of curtailing teen smoking. Smith said Coats will "be very supportive of a bill that can tangibly tackle teen smoking."

Democratic Attorney General Jeff Modisett finds himself at the confluence of all the major tobacco issues. He urged Gov. O'Bannon to return the campaign donations from tobacco interests. He was instrumental in getting 40 attorney generals from around the nation to sign the historic 1997 deal with Big Tobacco. And he sees the Fort Wayne ordinances as the first in a wave of anti-smoking legislation that will sweep over Indiana.

"What we are seeing is the beginning of a grassroots clean indoor air movement," Modisett said of the Fort Wayne ordinances and another that was passed in Elkhart last January that prohibits smoking in municipally owned buildings and vehicles. "If you recall, we had some success with open container ordinances where it was passed by 16 or 17 municipalities. That forced the legislature to take action."

The legislature passed a statewide open container ban two years ago. Said Modisett, "Fort Wayne is a conservative town. They have a Republican mayor and a Republican council. But because of the public health community, it has made some courageous moves with regards to clean indoor air ordinances. I was hopeful the mayor wouldn't veto either bill, but I'm glad the workplace ban went through."

Modisett said he has told his AG staff to make available its expertise to any community seeking smoking bans.

As for the federal tobacco deal, Modisett painted it as a victim of presidential and congressional politics. "A lot of people wanted to take this away from Sen. McCain and a lot of people who would like to have a more modest bill that would be perceived as less of a victory for Clinton-Gore."

Modisett said he expects the U.S. House to resurrect a tobacco bill later this year. "We still have a very good chance for a comprehensive bill this year," he said.

The irony is that while Gov. O'Bannon had to fork up $30,000 in tobacco donations because it could have become a political liability, Big Tobacco used a $40 million television advertising blitz to paint the McCain bill as an out-of-control tax increase on hard working Americans.

And while top Senate Democrats like

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

and to garner Democratic support for immunity for several key witnesses." In a letter to U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, Burton wrote that he has "tried to go the extra mile to address the concerns you raised about our procedures. In your letter of last October, you stated that you and your colleagues in the minority would not vote for immunity unless three conditions were met. I have agreed to two-and-a-half out of three."

David Steele, the 5th CD Democratic challenger, observed the 30th anniversary of Robert F. Kennedy's assassination by campaigning in a small Indiana town, Cayuga in Vermillion County. Said Steele, "They remember a young candidate with lots of energy and a hopeful vision of the future, and that's what we're offering them again."

All Indiana Republicans except John Hostettler voted in favor of the Religious Freedom Act and all Indiana Democrats except Tim Roemer voted against the amendment.

The Gary Post Tribune reports that the Gary chapter of the NAACP is "on life support." It said that of 150 subscribing members, 75 percent have not paid their annual dues.

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar called on President Clinton to broach the subject of creating a mutual security arrangement for Asia. "This is the time in our history to talk in these terms," Lugar said. "We must be prepared to enter into a different realm of foreign policy. We should form a security assurance arrangement in Asia. Security in the region is vital to our economy and safety, and we are the only country with the military and economic wherewithal to provide it," Lugar said.

Cam Carter has left the Hudson Institute and will join Dan Quayle's Campaign America PAC in Phoenix, Arizona. ✍

Tobacco, *from page 7*

Sens. Tom Daschle and Edward Kennedy vowed to make Republicans pay at the ballot box this November, *Roll Call* explained, "Democratic strategists can cite few clear political opportunities created by the outcome of Wednesday's contentious cloture vote."

Roll Call's Tim Curran wrote the lead of his story like this: "Despite the sound and fury produced by Democratic leaders about the electoral consequences of the Senate's defeat of tobacco legislation this week, the issue is not shaping up as the political panacea Democrats need to retake the House and improve their position in the Senate in November."

***Roll Call* said both Republican** and Democratic strategists see the booming economy along with the prospects of the House and Senate passing "watered-down legislation aimed at curbing teen smoking" as creating "little traction save in a handful of races in places where the fate of the tobacco industry is an important local concern."

As for the political impact here in Indiana, Helmke is not likely to see any significant fallout from his handling of the two ordinances. His reasoning for vetoing the restaurant ban fits in with the traditional conservative rhetoric of "getting government off our backs." An override of his veto would be only a tiny embarrassment and would not likely have any consequences in his race against Evan Bayh.

Two points of the tobacco issue will be fascinating to watch unfold over the next six months. One is how many legislative candidates will follow Gov. O'Bannon's lead and return contributions from tobacco interests. Thus far no legislative candidates have followed his lead. That could make for some interesting home-stretch fodder in some of the 15 House races HPR is following. While it is unlikely the tobacco issue will become a dominant one as the two parties bitterly fight for control of the split 50/50 Indiana House, that battle could come down to one or two races and that issue has the potential of becoming a factor in isolated cases.

Secondly, Modisett is has garnered some incredible national and state exposure on the tobacco issue. The fact that he declared the Fort Wayne and Elkhart initiatives the first of a wave means he will have an enduring issue to champion in cities and towns across Indiana, but eventually in the legislature. That kind of publicity could become a driving force in what will be a fascinating showdown between Modisett, Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan and Speaker John Gregg as the Democratic Party begins to sort out its post-O'Bannon era. ✍

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT
The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics
PO Box 20877
Indianapolis, IN
46220