THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"When word of the Hofmeister-Howey interview reached Washington, GOP operatives shuddered ...."

- Tom Edsall, reporting in the July 9 edition of the Washingt n P st, n 10th CD Republican Gary H fmeister's decisi n t deny rum rs

Democrats targeting an 'intolerant' GOP

Indiana CD races crucial; local issues will reign

INDIANAPOLIS - For the second time in a month, a national Democratic figure has come to Indiana and provided a glimpse at thematic strategies party congressional and legislative candidates will be using this fall.

On June 21, First Lady Hillary Clinton highlighted the accomplishments of her husband and pronounced education, crime and health care as battleground issues in Indiana's 8th, 9th and 10th CDs.

At last Saturday's Indiana Democratic Convention, it was U.S. Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware who laid out the strategies, and in a most intriguing way. He used a colleague we all know well - Sen. Richard Lugar - to make the distinction.

"When Richard Lugar arrived in the Senate, he was really the most conservative member," Biden said. "Now he is one of the most moderate. And he has not changed."

Biden went on to explain how it is to the Republican advantage that voter turnout remains low after historically light turnout in 1998 primaries. "They are trying to energize a very small base that is very far out of the mainstream. They are counting on you not doing your job."

Biden said moderate Republicans are discovering "this ain't your father's Republican Party" and many are asking, "Is there any room for me?"

He called both national and Hoosier Republicans such as Newt Gingrich, David McIntosh, John Hostettler and Gary Hofmeister the "New ATF" and Republicans the party of "alcohol, tobacco and firearms."

"If we can just elect 11 Democrats, they will lose control of the House," Biden said.

Events of this past week reflected on how crucial the three competitive Indiana congressional seats loom. The *Washington Post*

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TICKER TAPE

The Chicago Tribune's Inc. column has reported that Chicago has the inside track on landing the Republican National Convention in 2000. The RNC's site selection committee was in New Orleans and San Antonio. They will come back to Indianapolis, Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul during July and August and narrow the field to two or three cities by Labor Day. Chicago Sun-Times' columnist Robert Novak reported on Monday that New York City has "become the third contender in what had seemed a two-way race between San Antonio and Chicago." Novak said San Antonio had the "early lead" thanks to its excellent facilities

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Biden, *from page 1*

in a page 1 story on July 9 centered on a story by HPR Publisher Brian Howey on Hofmeister denying a number of rumors floating around Indianapolis. Tom Edsall reporting for the *Post* noted, "The instinctive reaction to this kind of question in most campaigns is to remain silent. Don't kick a sleeping dog, the thinking goes. If the rumors are false, talking only raises questions in the minds of people who had never heard them. If they are true, denying them is likely to provoke an onslaught of tips and calls to reporters and to the opposition camp."

Edsall continued that Hofmeister "decided that responding to the question was not kicking a sleeping dog; it was a way to put the dog to sleep." In part, because he was a small businessman "and knows that gossip can kill a small company."

"When word of the Hofmeister-Howey interview reached Washington, GOP operatives shuddered," Edsall wrote. "They saw in Hofmeister a shot at a Democratic House seat in a year when every seat picked up is insurance for Gingrich and the GOP."

Edsall quoted one operative who complained, "He turned a nonstory into a story." At the same time, "staff at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee were incredulous. 'What goes with this guy Hofmeister?' a Democratic aide asked.

"In the four weeks since the NUVO story was published, the evidence suggests that more harm was done by the story to Hofmeister in the nation's capital than in Indianapolis, where no one has yet substantiated any of the rumors."

The most crucial element to Campaign '98 at this point is that because a report from independent counsel Kenneth Starr is not expected, Indiana's congressional and legislative races will not likely be affected by a national dynamic and, instead, will be won or lost based on local issues played off of national themes articulated by people such as Biden and the First Lady. One huge local issue will likely be gay rights, which Democrats will try to exploit as a Republican Party intent on demonizing minorities. That issue could get intense in Lafayette, for instance, which has experienced a split between moderate and conservative Republicans during the primary season and is now witnessing a radical campaign to identify and "out" lesbian public school teachers

Watch for similar controversies to arise in the Bloody 8th CD and in several hot legislative races. Democrats will try to use those issues to motivate its base to vote.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

What if they gave a convention and no one gave a darn?

INDIANAPOLIS - There have been calls for a return of the nominating process from primary election voters to delegates at the party conventions.

People such as former state chairs Rex Early and Gordon Durnil favor that move because most voters don't pay attention (i.e. Bob Kern this year or Chuck Pierson in 1992). Party activists who really care are in a better position to make a call on the nomination process.

But after watching delegates from both parties these past two months (and since 1996), I'm not so sure that's the right way to go.

Most old-timers will tell you that the conventions lost their zing beginning in 1976 when the primaries took over. It sapped conventions of the dramatic backroom deals and emotional floor demonstrations.

Then, in 1996, Republican gubernatorial nominee Stephen Goldsmith threw to the convention the lieutenant governor's nomination, which turned into a multiple battle among George Witwer, Sue Anne Gilroy, Bill Friend and Steve Johnson. As we all know, Witwer stunned the convention with a second ballot win. But what was even more astounding were the several hundred delegates who left the hall after casting the first ballot. There was a virtual certainty rolling through the hall that it would take several ballots to get a winner.

What else in the hell did they have to do that was so important? By the time Goldsmith and Witwer could spread their wings for the ticket, instead of finding the jubilant masses, they found a hall filled with closing down noises - you know, chairs being folded up, an occasional balloon or paper cup being popped, and a low din of departing conversationeers.

At the June Republican convention, about 500 of the 2,500 delegates jabbered away on the edge of the convention floor as Senate nominee Paul Helmke tried to strike up some semblence of enthusiasm. Last weekend, after Sen. Biden spoke, there was a hemorrhage of delegates peeling off the floor. By about 4:30 p.m. - 90 minutes before Senate nominee Evan Bayh was to speak - his aides darted about the hall with freaked-out looks on their faces. Would there be enough delegates left to ensure that Bayh wouldn't be speaking to an embarrassingly empty hall? Sure, the real audience was statewide TV on the 6 o'clock news, but it was on a Saturday - the lowest rated news day of the week - and the stations would have been inclined to show the whole empty picture. The Democrats scrapped videos of Gov. O'Bannon, LG Kernan and the Bayh Family in order to rush Bayh on.

Meanwhile the political reporters - who of all people should love a convention - were bored stiff and rolling their eyes. Most of them couldn't leave as most of the delegates did by the time Susan Bayh's gaze rested on her husband as he exhorted the party not to get complacent.

The Republican and Democratic conventions are different in some ways. The Republican hierarchy sits high above the assembly. The Democratic bigwigs - the governor, LG, AG and speaker - were accessible on the wings to anyone who wanted to talk to them. Many Republicans did not listen to the speeches. Most of the Demcrats did. When Joe Andrew and Sen. Biden spoke, they seemed to have the full attention of the room.

Both parties had way too many speakers. And except for the GOP clerk of the court showdown, there was nothing important to decide. Which is interesting. Both chairs - Mike McDaniel and Andrew - seem to pride themselves on having few (if any) floor fights. While floor fights cost more money, they have the potential to invigorate the delegates.

Of course the key question is whether enough of the delegates would - as Joe Andrew was saying two years ago - "give a darn!" about the responsibility they have one day every two years.✍

TICKER TAPE

and "its impact on the important Hispanic vote." But Texas is considered solidly in the Republican column and party strategists favor Chicago because it is a key swing state.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported on Monday that "They didn't send in the clowns, but they did send in the elephants. Four pachyderms decked out in red, white and blue banners reading 'RNC 2000 Chicago' were paraded into the United Center on Thursday to amuse and beguile nine members of the Republican National Committee." The Sun-Times added that for "two days the city pulled out all the stops and spent $100,000 in hopes of persuading the committee to make Chicago its next convention site.

The Chicago Tribune reported that members of the site selection committee received from the city cheese cake and deep dish pizza at their homes, in addition to the leather bags, cigars, books and an 18-inch bust of Abraham Lincoln while in the city.

Indiana Attorney General Jeff Modisett told the New York Times that from the beginning the 40 states attorney generals have had a "plan B" should the tobacco settlement fail to pass muster in Congress.

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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 gets that 'deer in the headlights' look on TV6

Even though the Democrats introduced their ticket at the state convention last weekend, it is clear from senior party officials that most of the money will be steered into the Battle for the House. The financing for the recently announced statewide races will probably amount to little more travel budgets and bumper stickers. Long-term clerk of the court candidate Doug Leatherbury will be better funded because he's been working at it for several years.

HORSE RACE

A nationwide Fox News/Opinion Dynamic Poll (900 registered, June 30-July 1, +/- 3 percent) showed that 36 percent would vote for a Republican congressional candidate and 39 percent would vote Democratic and 25 percent were undecided. As for a split between the parties holding Congress and the White House, 42 percent supported that and 37 percent preferred one party to hold both institutions. Forty percent preferred to have a Democrat in the White House and Republicans controlling Congress while 31 percent preferred it the other way around. Sixty-one percent said their own representative deserved to be re-elected.

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.

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:** Fort Wayne City Council overrides Helmke's veto of the smoking ban in restaurants and bars. Sources say Helmke is fuming at Council Republicans for not delaying the override until after November. Helmke tried to press Bayh on having 20 debates across the state. Bayh wants just one statewide broadcast. Even Republicans tell HPR that Bayh would be stupid to agree to that many debates. Helmke fails to push Bayh on substantive issues, prompting *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* editorial writer Larry Hayes to say, "Helmke is going to get creamed." Bayh could have a $4 million money advantage on him when the FEC reports are released. Helmke was warmly received at a UAW rally in Kokomo. A Bayh aide showed up and apologized that the former governor couldn't be there, but here's a present: a poster of Evan, Susan and the twins. The same poster was on sale for $10 at the convention. Bayh obviously has no bones about using the kids for a campaign he is a cinch to win. Bayh was featured in a Tuesday *New York Times* article that basically rehashed his history (including the story about him asking Harry Truman if he could go the bathroom). Horse Race feels for Helmke, who we've admired greatly as a dynamic mayor. But his campaign skills statewide have been poor and if he doesn't start pushing Bayh on the issues (how about the tobacco bill, gambling or global warming?) then he will have severely damaged his reputation and will not be in any shape to run for governor in 2000. **Status:** Likely D.

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:** Hill is borrowing a page from his 1990 Senate candidacy playbook. He announced on Wednesday that he will conduct a 10-week walking tour of the sprawling 9th CD, which can take five hours to drive end to end. "Baron will lay out his plans for meeting the voters, listening to their concerns and delivering his message over the next 10 weeks of the campaign," said Luke Clippinger,

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Hill's campaign manager. "This announcement and the tour that Baron outlines will go a long way toward explaining the type of candidate he is and, more importantly, the kind of representative he will be." **Status:** Likely D.

Indiana Statehouse races

Secretary of State: **Republican:** Sue Anne Gilroy. **Democrat:** Cheryl Little. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Forecast:** Cheryl Little's Statehouse debut was terrible. With Evan Bayh standing behind her, Little said, "Unlike my opponent, I am not running for governor in the year 2000." When WRTV's Norm Cox asked Little why it was OK for Evan Bayh to serve just two years as secretary of state (instead of six for Gilroy by 2000) why wasn't it OK for Gilroy? Little responded with a deer in the headlights look and told Cox that Joe Andrew had told her to say that. Cox pressed in a "but what do you think" vein. Little referred him to Joe Andrew. Oops. A senior Democratic House official told HPR that the party won't be diverting any money away from House races and into the Statehouse races. So, have a nice tour of the state, Cheryl Little. She won't hold a candle to Gilroy. **Status:** Solid Republican.

Indiana House Races

House District 20: **Republican:** Rep. Mary Kay Budak. **Democrats:** Tony Underly. Geography: LaPorte and St. Joseph counties. **1994 Results:** Budak 12,688 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Budak 12,672, Underly 8,313. **1998 Forecast:** We've got this race in the mix, but Democrats talk of Budak and how she "straddles the fence" on issues and has maintained her popularity over the years in two Democratic counties. Without a clear national dynamic shaping up in favor of the Democrats, it's hard to see how Underly will make this a close race. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

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:** After meeting Peggy Welch, HPR sees why the Democrats are so excited about this new opportunity. She is personable, a conservative with GOP roots going back to Sen. Thad Cochran, has excellent life experiences as a cancer nurse, and the family name has some ballot familiarity. Her husband, Judge David Welch, lost to Rep. Jerry Bales last decade. Democrats will try to recruit Bales' supporters, although they won't seek his endorsement. One Democrat told HPR, "We've already got them." Welch plans to run an extensive door-to-door campaign and hit the county fair circuit this summer. Republican right will be rallying around Ellington, who they see as a rising star candidate. That means people like former Gov. Bob Orr, George Witwer and Rep. David McIntosh will be working this district hard. The district is about a 60/40 Republican stronghold and just based on demographics, it should stay that way. What will be interesting to watch is if Bales makes a concerted effort to sway his supporters to Welch, whom he must see as politically palatable. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

House District 73: **R Primary:** Grayson Goodness. **D Primary:** Denny Oxley. **Geography:** Jasper and Southwestern Indiana. **1994 Results:** Heeke (D) 9,629, Goodness 8,241. **1996 Results:** Heeke 12,371, Goodness 8,847. **1998 Forecast:** Gov. O'Bannon, Speaker John Gregg and Political Director Robin Winston have been in Jasper lately trying to make sure a split in the Democratic ranks mends between Oxley and his vanquished primary opponent Birk. One Democrat said it was a "slow process to reunite." Another said out-going Rep. Dennis Heeke has upset more people than Birk did. Heeke had backed Oxley. Jasper Councilman Goodness votes against a Wal-Mart super center. Democrats' read on that is the Goodness was favoring old-time merchants in lieu of modern covenience. This seat should go Democratic, but Dems seem worried about this one. **Status:** Leans D

✍ *Brian A. Howey*

TICKER TAPE

Negotiations have resumed between the AGs and Big Tobacco.

Meanwhile, Modisett warned Hoosiers surfing the Internet that gambling over computers is illegal. "They do know there are hundreds of sites offering gambling. They know that adolescents and college students are the most proficient users of the Internet, and they know that the prevalence of problem gambling among youth and college students is much higher than in the general adult population," Modisett said, adding that "it is a difficult enforcement issue."

After 13 church arsons in Indiana in 1997, there have been four in the state so far this year. The latest was a church in Muncie.

Jason McDermott, a man accused of impersonating U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott of Washington, who was arrested in Portage, was sentenced to nine years in the Indiana DOC for living off of bad checks and stolen goods.

The South Bend Tribune reported that the proposed merger of the nation's two largest teacher's unions failed "in part because there was no plan for how the merger

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would proceed at the state and local levels"(Margaret Fosmoe, Sue Lowe, South Bend Tribune). The proposal was for the National Education Association to merge with the American Federation of Teachers. Most of the Indiana delegation to the NEA convention in New Orleans voted no.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar's 1988 book -"Letters to the Next President" - is being re-issued with a revised and updated preface to the 1998 edition offering insights that will apply to Bill Clinton's successor as much as - if not more than - they did to Clinton himself. Lugar will distribute the new edition on the Internet as a virtual book in The 1stBooks Library. The new version will be at http:www.1stbooks.com. In the 1988 version, Lugar proposed 12 rules of conduct for Ronald Reagan's successor in the White House."Tell the truth"is the No. 1 rule.

David Steele, the 5th CD Democratic nominee, issued his "first campaign promise" to convene a district-wide, bipartisan leadership conference during his first year in office. "We've seen the negative effects that constant exposure to special interest lobbying can have on a Congressman over a period of years," Steele

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Larry Hayes, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - Paul Helmke is going to get creamed. Unless a miracle happens. Or he starts to get Hoosiers to pay attention. So far, Helmke's Senate campaign has all the excitement of Thomas E. Dewey's man-on-the-wedding-cake performance of 1948. When I went to see the mayor before his smoking ordinance veto, I asked him about his nearly invisible campaign for the U.S. Senate. He was instantly defensive. This was a period of a campaign, he patiently explained to me, when he needed to spend his time on fund-raising. That's an understandment. Helmke told me he had exactly zero bucks in his war chest when he finished the primary. But while he's on dialing for dollars, what's keeping him from waging an aggressive campaign right now? To be sure, he can attack Bayh for a lackluster eight years as governor. ✍

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - It happened again last (month) in the journalism profession. Patricia Smith, an award-winning columnist from the *Boston Globe*, resigned after editors learned she had fabricated, i.e. made up, sources she referred to in her columns. For those of us in the profession, this was another dark day. It's akin to how a police officer feels when he reads a story about a crooked cop or the feeling a small-town minister has to have when he reads about a televangelist who fleeced his flock. It hurts. The truth can hurt not just one person's reputation, but the reputation of an entire profession. Patricia Smith alone should not be singled out. Steve Glass, contributing writer for the *New Republic* and other magazines, also was recently found to have invented some of the characters in his columns. The truth of the matter is that credibility gaps can turn into canyons when there is no truth to span the gaps between perceptions and realities. People often talk about moments of truth. For readers, there should be one every day when they pick up a newspaper. ✍

R.K. Shull, *Indianapolis News* - The partisan furor between Kenneth Starr and President Clinton prompts me to ask one question. To what end? Let's assume for the moment that Independent Counsel Starr is right and proper in everything he does in his mission to rid the nation of the sinful Clinton administration. So Starr persaudes his grand jury to indict a 24-year-old ditz on felony charges tht she lied about her relations with Clinton. To what end? And Starr bundles up everything he's learned about President Clinton in Starr's four-year search and turns it over to the U.S. House of Representatives so the House can put the government on hold and conduct impeachment hearings. To what end? The day will come when there's a Republican president again in the White House. And there could be a Democrat-controlled Congress with the power to create an office of independent counsel. In which case, the Republican president had better be wearing asbestos underwear because the guy in hot pursuit will be carrying a blow-torch. That will be Starr's legacy.

Harrison Ullmann, *NUVO Newsweekly* - A hundred years from now, when they're teaching our great-great-great grandchildren about the old days in Indianapolis, it will be hard for anyone to make sense of what Judge S. Hugh Dillin thought he was doing in the case of United States vs. Board of School Commissioners. The judge and legislators should be held accountable for their negligent stewardship, but there's no one with the authority or the inclination to do it. The legal thievery condoned by Judge Dillin was organized by two of the unindicted co-conspirators in the desegregation case - Sen. Larry Borst and Sen. Morris Mills. Imagine that somebody steals your car. After awhile they catch the thief and haul him to court. After another while, they convict the thief. But then the judge orders you to provide the thief with limos and Lincolns for the rest of his life. That's how Judge Dillin desegregated our schools. ✍

Quayle lines up a Washington power couple; NH chairman says Dan's got 'good buzz'

Wanna make some money?

It may take a couple of years, but start betting the cynics out there that former Vice President Dan Quayle has a darn good shot at winning the 2000 Republican presidential nomination.

It's almost as good a bet as suckering people on the fact that Reno, Nev., is actually west of Los Angeles (another great way of making money).

The Eastern Establishment media is trying so hard to ignore Quayle. Cokie Roberts won't even put him on her list of Republicans to watch. Neither does GOP pollster Bill McInturff, who hasn't been able to find a prefabricated "slot" for Quayle in his scenarios (former vice president doesn't count, I guess).

HPR's early prediction is that Quayle will finish in the top three and has an excellent chance of winning the nomination. Now, you sk, is Howey doing the hometown boy thing?

Well, let's start sorting things out. Quayle just hired a Washington "power couple" - Kyle McSlarrow, who is chief of staff to secretary of the Republican Conference Sen. Paul Coverdell, and his wife, Alison, deputy chief of staff to Sen. Trent Lott. *Chicago Sun-Times* columnist Robert Novak said that McSlarrow is "going to run the Quayle for President campaign" which, he added, "is a good start."

CNN quoted Novak as saying that Quayle "is a serious actor" even though "a lot of the media doesn't give him enough attention."

Secondly, Quayle has an outstanding chance of doing well in Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two significant states to weigh in.

The *White House Bulletin* interviewed the Republican chairs in both states. To New Hampshire's Steve Duprey, he noted that Texas Gov. George W. Bush has not been active.

But, he explained, "Quayle's starting to move. Sununu's doing a good job with Quayle. He had that press conference a couple of weeks ago with (former gubernatorial nominee) Ovide Lamontagne. Ovide has a very loyal following, and they had 400 people show up at an announcement that Ovide's going to head up (Quayle's) PAC."

Duprey continued, "Everybody who I talk to, who hears Dan Quayle at one of our events says, "Wow, this guy's bright, he's able, he'd be a great President."

Duprey follows that up by saying that people then say, "Gee, he's got to meet more people so they get over the perception most have of him." He said that New Hampshire voters pick who they want to be president, and then they pick who they think's electable.

Quayle's biggest challenge is "proving his electability day in and day out. But he's real popular. I think he's getting a good buzz."

Iowa's chairman Steve Grubbs reported that Quayle will be "doing a lot of stops" in the Hawkeye State. That is where Quayle has consistently polled in the 20 percent range.

With an expected field of up to 10 candidates, the winner can be expected to poll in the lower 30s, as Bob Dole did in 1996. Quayle not only has the Midwestern roots, but he has been able to maintain a celebrity status that few figured he could do. It was astounding a few weeks ago to watch Katie Couric on NBC's *Today Show* give Quayle a number of unfiltered minutes to state his position on the issues.

Gov. Bush will enter this race as the "front runner." Republican front runners from the It's My Turn Party tend to do better than Democratic front runners. While Bush is a legacy and a dynasty in the making, he isn't a great speaker and he may not have paid his dues. Most Republican presidential nominees had to try more than once to get the nomination.

Quayle has the potential to do well in Iowa and New Hampshire. Then there will be his new home state of Arizona, then South Carolina - all territory that doesn't appear to be that hostile to the man who coined the phrase "family values" (to much ridicule) only to see it become an enduring, bipartisan catch phrase of the '90s.

TICKER TAPE

said. "I believe that this retreat, if held annually, can be a big part in keeping me in touch with the needs of local government and in helping me to articulate our district's values in Congress."

Steel Dynamics announced last week that it will build a 285-employee structural steel mill near Columbia City. Steel Dynamics, which has a plant in Butler, Ind., had considered a site in Toledo, Ohio.

Common Cause of Indiana is taking a new approach in its push for campaign finance reform, reported Alan Julian of the Evansville Courier. "Instead of lobbying the legislature, the citizen watchdog group is first trying to build grassroots support for campaign reform." Said CC's Julia Vaughn, "People have a distaste for big spending, but they may not understand how it affects them in higher taxes or higher utility bills. We're trying to engage the average Hoosiers in the debate. How much money is too much and where is it coming from?" Vaughn said there will be 10 public meetings held around the state in July to highlight the issue.

Republicans have recruited Dr. Juanita Clay, an African-American, to run against State Rep. Winfield Moses in Fort

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Wayne. Clay has a long history of minority activism. Moses' 81st HD was ostensibly created for a minority candidate, but he defeated Fort Wayne Councilman Charles Redd in the 1992 primary without spending any money. Republicans have been seeking an African-American candidate to put that seat into play. An earlier black candidate recruited to run for the seat later moved away. ✍

From pen-pals - Andrew and McIntosh

INDIANAPOLIS - They're the latest of pen-pals - U.S. Rep. David McIntosh and Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew.

McIntosh's Indiana Family and Freedom Committee will issue a press release, and then Andrew follows with a sarcastic letter in response.

Last week, McIntosh - who disavows any interest in running for governor in 2000 appeared with House Minority Leader Paul Mannweiler and Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton to announce support for a $1 billion permanent tax cut. At that conference and in a subsequent press release, McIntosh said Rep. B. Patrick Bauer advocates a $1.55 billion tax hike, including $722 million in higher sales taxes and $450 million in new corporate taxes. He said State Sen. Mike Gery "has called for an even bigger $1.893 billion tax increase.

McIntosh noted that "Indiana closed the books on its 1998 fiscal year with an astonishing $2 billion budget surplus. That's the good news. The bad news is Hoosiers are overtaxed by at least $500 million each year."

Andrew responded with a letter the next day to McIntosh. "Welcome back to Indiana. I recently heard that Rep. Mannweiler and Sen. Garton joined you for a news conference at which you assailed the fiscal record of Indiana Democrats. While I applaud your political acumen in getting Rep. Mannweiler and Sen. Garton to endorse your gubernatorial aspirations, and to tweak Secretary of State Gilroy at the same time, you have once again misstated several important facts."

Andrew pointed out to his friend McIntosh that "Indiana Democrats have passed the two largest tax cuts in Indiana's history."

Andrew said the surplus was created by 10 years of "conservative and prudent fiscal management." He compared that legacy of Govs. Bayh and O'Bannon to that of Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, who "at the same time also had a surplus, and he actually raised taxes, not once, not twice, but three times."

"I assume that since Mayor Goldsmith is also running for governor, you will point out these facts. I presume I am assisting you by doing so now," Andrew said.

HPR proposes we get these pen-pals togther for dinner, but not at St. Elmo's.

Can't have steak knives....✍

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