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Politicos bracing for Starr's report

Both parties have little stomach for impeaching

DUNELAND BEACH, Ind. - The last two Sunday mornings have found Hoosier politicos blinking at their weekly talk shows. They saw scandal ghosts such as the aging Woodward and Bernstein, old tapes of Nixon, and the familiar legal eagle Roy Black painting dark pictures of looming turmoil swirling around Clinton.

Next Monday, President Clinton is expected to testify before Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's grand jury, a move defense attorney Black feels is a no-win situation. Bob Woodward said on NBC's *Meet the Press* that in 1974 Nixon was accused of "authorizing a police state. Now, 25 years later, the issue turns on not something of that magnitude, but a dress."

Indiana politicians of both parties are shaking their heads over the possibility of Clinton's impeachment over a consensual sexual affair. "It's an absurd situation and people are sick of it," said Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine.

Two weekends ago, U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch suggested on *Meet the Press* that if President Clinton came clean to the American people, "I think the president would have a reasonable chance of getting through this."

A number of Indiana Republicans HPR has talked with take a similar approach for several reasons: **1.)** They do not see a sexual situation as a constitutional crisis; **2.)** they see the president already severely damaged politically; **3.)** they believe the growing campaign finance scandal that could engulf both Clinton and Vice President Gore will be more advantageous for their prospects in 2000.

Democratic House Speaker John Gregg recalled being in college during Watergate. "That was a constitutional crisis. All you could get college students to talk about back then was Richard Nixon," Gregg said. "Everybody had an opinion. I have not seen the same thing on this. That's the good news at this point for us."

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"You are creating 8,000 jobs per year. Welfare is down. And now you've signed Peyton Manning as quarterback...."

- Vice President Al Gore, to Indiana Democrats on Aug. 3 in Indianapolis.

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TICKER TAPE

The Republican National Committee's 2000 convention site selection committee (the best damn job in America!) has chosen Indianapolis as well as New York City, Philadelphia, San Antonio and New Orleans as finalists. Significantly for Indianapolis is that Chicago didn't make the cut. That makes Indianapolis the hot contestant if the RNC decides to follow Dan Quayle's 2000 strategy - the Midwest and California. Mayor Stephen Goldsmith said the emphasis will be to show that Indianapolis can conduct the convention in a more cost - effective basis than the competition.

Vice President Al Gore spoke to a rally of nearly 400 Democrats and highlighted the Security Dads program at Indianapolis Arlington High School during a campaign swing on Aug. 3. "You are the heroes," Gore told 16 of the parent volunteers who help patrol hallways and athletic events at the once-troubled school. Gore followed the lead of Gov. Frank O'Bannon, who cited the program last spring as the nation was in the grips of an outbreak of school shootings. Gore raised an estimated $400,000 for Indiana Democratic campaigns. The appearance and the close ties Indiana Democratic Chairman

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Scandal, *from page 1*

Polling data seems to confirm that. In a weekend CBS News Poll, 53 percent said Clinton should make a public statement about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. An ABC News Poll on July 30 found that while 68 percent of Americans believe Clinton had an affair, only 39 percent favor impeachment if he lied about it, and 42 percent said he should be impeached if he obstructed justice or suborned perjury. In that same poll, 66 percent agree they are unhappy with Clinton's behavior in the Lewinsky matter, but it has nothing to do with his job as president. An NBC News poll had Clinton's approval rating going into August at 68 percent.

"It doesn't seem to be affecting public opinion at all," said Hoosier-bred Washington political consultant Chris Sautter. "I think people have made up their minds about Clinton. They've already concluded he's a good president even while they don't feel comfortable about parts of his personal life. Second of all, they don't feel comfortable with this kind of investigation - the sex thing conducted by the special prosecutor. The original purpose of the investigation - Whitewater - is over."

Sautter added that Hoosier voters seem to "understand the difference" between Watergate and Monica. "Remember, Nixon left office with historically low job performance ratings." That contrasted with what U.S. Rep. John Boehner of Ohio told Indianapolis Republicans at a fund-raiser for 10th CD candidate Gary Hofmeister this week. He said that when the Starr report is released, Clinton will be severely damaged. Al Hunt of the *Wall Street Journal* predicted Democratic voters might stay home like they did in 1994.

Yet Democrats feel unsettled at this writing because they don't know what they're going to have to deal with. "There is an uneasiness with the timing," Sautter said. "Here we are, three months out. This investigation is coming to a conclusion of some sort and no one is sure what it is. I think the Republicans are as cautious as the Democrats are anxious. Most of them realize there is a real potential for backlash if they overreact or overreach. This is something you need support from voters and there seems to be almost no support for pushing Clinton out of office on the basis of this investigation."

What does HPR think?

What we've just presented is a snapshot in time. No one in Indiana really knows what will be in Starr's report. If the report reveals a lurid streak of behavior by the President and First Lady so offensive to common people, the poll numbers as well as the political dynamic will shift quickly.

We also believe that the campaign finance investigation represents a more severe threat to the Clinton presidency and his standing in history than Monica Lewinsky.

Burton's showdown with AG Reno puts campaign finance in new light

By Mark Schoeff, Jr.
Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - After a spring and summer filled with controversy, some of which he brought on himself with injudicious comments about the president, U.S. Rep. Dan Burton may be gaining some traction in this phase of the probe.

All 24 Republican members of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee hung together to vote in favor of citing AG Janet Reno in contempt of Congress for failing to release internal Justice Department fund-raising documents that call for the appointment of an independent counsel.

A number of those Republicans are moderates or narrowly won their seats in the last election.

Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., "fully supports (Burton's) leadership" of the investigation, said Trey Hardin, policy and communications director for the suburban Washington, D.C. lawmaker. "He thinks Burton is going about it in the right way."

Like most of the capital's suburbs, Davis' district is moderate. Burton's brand of conservatism probably wouldn't sell in that neck of the woods. Still, Davis is standing with Burton on the contempt citation because he wants to get to the bottom of the campaign finance inquiry.

"The press wants to write about partisan blood baths," said Hardin. But Burton "is in it for the truth. He's conducted these committee hearings in a respectable manner."

Another committee office endorsed Burton's approach on the contempt citation. "The situation is that you have a case where every procedure of the law has been followed," said Pam Arruda, spokeswoman for Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Tex., a member of the committee.

Constituent calls to Sessions' office have run strongly in favor of the oversight committee's efforts, said Arruda. "We're hearing a lot about campaign finance."

Burton also is maintaining support of members of the Indiana delegation. Rep. Mark Souder, a committee member, backed Burton on the Reno contempt vote.

"He feels pretty strongly on the merits that this is the right thing to do," said Angela Flood, Souder's spokeswoman. "(Reno) should be getting the sense that the House is pretty serious about this."

How serious the full House is will be demonstrated by the body's fall agenda. The vote on Reno's contempt citation will have to compete against appropriations bills, which likely will be at the center of a war between Capitol Hill and the White House over shutting down the government.

CONGRESS WATCH

A Washing-ton political observer, however, said Republicans should be wary of voting to hold Reno in contempt. She probably will prevail in a close vote, and even if she doesn't, she could still turn out to be a "hero," said David Bositis, senior political analyst at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

Reno could be portrayed as a woman standing up to the GOP men in Congress, a disastrous situation for a party courting women to close the gender gap, Bositis said. Appearing to beat up a woman would set back Republicans. "Cooler heads in the GOP will look at this and see it is not a winner," he said.

Echoing other Beltway pundits, Bositis said Burton ahs been hoist on his own petard. The perception that he is fiercely partisan undermines his ability to conduct the investigation.

"If I were an opponent of campaign finance reform or a Democrat, Dan Burton is someone I would like to see as chairman of the committee," Bositis said. "(He) comes across as so partisan that people say, 'What do you expect from this guy?'"

Schoeff is HPR's Washington correspendent

TICKER TAPE

Joe Andrew has to Gore leaves little doubt that Hoosier Democrats will be supporting Gore in the 2000 presidential campaign.

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats has decided to give his $400,000 campaign war chest to the Republican National Campaign Committee. Of that amount, $17,500 will probably end up with Mayor Paul Helmke's Senate campaign against Evan Bayh.

Helmke opened up the air war in the Senate race with a $15,000 buy in the Fort Wayne market obsensibly to generate "volunteer" support in his home base and gain some earned media by going first. Democrat Evan Bayh responded with two ads - a 30 and 60-second spot - touting his record for no taxes and record surpluses.

Just two lobbyists appeared at a hearing of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission's public hearing last week on what recommendations would be made to the 1999 Indiana General Assembly (Suzanne McBride, Indianapolis Star/News). Julia Vaughn of the Citizens Action Coalition advocated a two-year "cooling off" period for legislators who want to become lobbyists. She also proposed a ban on gifts to legislators. "The giving of gifts

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Toss-Ups (7)

30th - Burkhardt v. Herrell

34th - Vanleer v. Adams

46th - Lohr v. Tincher

54th - Hamilton v. Saunders

56th - Paust v. Bodiker

80th - Becker v. Gia Quinta

97th - Schultz v. Mahern

Leans R (7)

20th - Underly v. Budak

24th - McClain v. Fincher

26th - Scholer v. Clapper

53rd - Cherry v. Wolf v. Miller

54th - Hamilton v. Saunders

60th - Ellingtonv. Welch

94th - Marendt v. Bardon

Leans D (4)

9th - Pelath v. Allamong

10th - Cheney v. Cannon

19th - Kuzman v. Gasparovic

73rd - Oxley v. Goodness

1998 Racing Form

GM strike, Tippecanoe bombing influence races

Last May, HPR counted 14 Indiana House races that were either open seats or in contention. This August, we find 17 we're tracking. Four of those seats, like the open 9thHD and 10th HD, and the 67th HD and 24th HD look like they'll be easily defended by their parties. We'll keep them in the mix should a national dynamic overtake local issues.

HORSE RACE

Our seven toss-ups have increased from five, with the UAW strike helping to add HD 30 in Kokomo to the mix. We put the Lafayette seat held by Republican Sue Scholer in the mix because of the bizarre and volatile social and political controversy there that included an attempt at blowing up the Tippecanoe County courthouse.

Our best guess is that when the dust settles on Nov. 3, the winning party will have no more than a 52-48 lead, and there are scenarios where it could end up as it is now - 50/50 SPLIT.

If there had been a "Legislative Roulette" table at the Blue Chip casino last Saturday, my bet *at this point in time* would be that Republicans have the best chance to control the House.

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. CAPITAL letters means the status has changed.

Indiana House Races

House District 9: **Republican**: Brad Allamong. **Democrat:** Scott Pelath. **Geography**: Michigan City, LaPorte and St. Joseph counties. **1994 results:** Alevizos (D) 11,202 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Alevizos15,424 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Democratic caucus polling shows Pelath to be in great shape now that Alevizos will not run an independent campaign. **Status:** *Likely D.*

House District 10: **Republican**: John Cannon. **Democrat:** Duane Cheney. **Geography**: Valparaiso, Portage, Porter County. **1994 results:** Wilson (D) 9,701 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Wilson 15,672 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Ditto for Cheney as in Pelath's seat. Democrats received polling data from their open seats first and it shows that Cheney should have little trouble with Cannon. The biggest thing that could change in either the 9th or 10th HDs is a scandal disaster with President Clinton where the election would be a referendum on whether he stays or goes. **Status**: *Likely D.*

House District 19: **R Primary**: Nick Gasparovic. **D Primary:** Rep. Bob Kuzman. **Geography**: Crown Point, south Lake County. **HPR General Forecast:** Kuzman v. Gasparovic. **1994 results:** Conlon (R) 8,850, McCall (D) 5,280. **1996 Results:** Kuzman (D) 12,236, Sparks (R) 10,453. **1998 Forecast:** In 1992, Suellen Reed won this district with 60 percent and AG candidate Tim Bookwalter with 57 percent, prompting Republicans to call this seat their No. 1 target. Problem for them is that Kuzman had a solid freshman term, has raised good money, opened up a Congressional-caliber campaign office in Crown Point and can count on Gov. O'Bannon to return to Lake County (for about the 20th time since 1996) should there be even a whiff of trouble. Just in case, Democrats have a field staffer working for Kuzman. **Status**: *Leans D.*

House District 20: **Republican:** Rep. Mary Kay Budak. **Democrat:** Tony Underly. **Geography:** LaPorte and St. Joseph counties. **1994 Results:** Budak 12,688 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Budak 12,672, Underly 8,313. **1998 Forecast:** Budak beat Underly with 60 percent two years ago even though Goldsmith took just 44 percent in that district. Underly is the labor candidate, but Budak has always been able to muster labor support. Only difference this year is the UAW strike might energize some labor and return them to their roots. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

House District 24: **Republican:** Rep. Rick McClain. **Democrat:** Logansport Councilman

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Mike Fincher. **Geography:** Logansport, Cass, Carroll counties. **1994 Results:** McClain 10,421, Frantz 7,686. **1996 Results:** McClain 15,538 (unopposed) . **1998 Forecast:** We're on the verge of dropping this race from the top tier of races. Nothing that has happened to lead us to believe McClain is in any sort of trouble. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

House District 26: **Republican:** Rep. Sue Scholer. **Democrat:** Jeff Clapper. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **1994 Results:** Scholer 7,434 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Scholer 8,633, Clapper (D) 5,714. **1998 Forecast:** We're adding this race to the mix because of the bizarre nature of politics and social upheaval in the Lafayette area. First there was the showdown between moderate and conservative Republicans, with Scholer siding with the largely victorious moderates. Then came the targeting of gay and lesbian public school teachers in Lafayette, which has been a long simmering point of agitation with the Christian ultra right. Then came the truck bombing attempt at the Tippecanoe County courthouse that came close to being a Hoosier version of Oklahoma City (or Nairobi). There are hints that the far right militia may be involved. In normal circumstances, Scholer should be in pretty good shape and we resisted putting this race on the front burner earlier this summer since the district's Democratic base is only 43 percent, although AG Jeff Modisett won the district in 1996 with 53 percent. But Scholer is now in leadership, as was Stan Jones, the man she defeated in 1990. She upset some of her Purdue University supporters by backing a move to place a faculty member on the university's board of trustees. She may have lost support of the far right. The courthouse bombing could endear her to moderate Republicans and Democrats. We're not saying that Scholer is in trouble - only that the political situation seems to be incredibly volatile. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

House District 30: **Republican:** Rep. Karen Burkhardt. **Democrat:** Ron Herrell. **Geography:** Kokomo, Howard County. **1994 Results:** Padfield (R) 8,589, Howard 7,363. **1996 Results:** Padfield 10,775, Herrell 9,660. **1998 Forecast:** UAW strike against GM could really energize the dormant Democratic base after 4,000 workers were laid off for close to two months. Herrell's appeal to that base seemed to connect. Burkhardt appeared before the CAP Council with a stack of golf, outdoors, gun and fishing magazines and told the workers that "I read the same things you do." Herrell responded, "I now know my opponent and I have one thing in common: We both like to fish." House Speaker John Gregg tells HPR, "We made a mistake in 1996 by trying to make Ron into something he is not. He's a firefighter, an active Christian and pro-life and he needs to be sold as he is." Gregg said the emphasis in 1996 was to defeat Padfield and not to elect Herrell. Still awaiting tracking data to see where this race stands. **Status:** *TOSS-UP.*

House District 34: **Republican:** James Vanleer. **Democrat:** Rep. Tiny Adams. **Geography:** Muncie, Delaware County. **1994 Results:** Vanleer 8,491, Elliott 7,522. **1996 Results:** Adams 9,630, Vanleer 9,241. **1998 Forecast:** Democrats have a field staffer in place for this race. Muncie is a city in transition with Ball Corp. and several other big companies leaving town. Recent UAW strike could help Adams energize his labor base and help make up for the continuing rifts in the Delaware County Democratic organization that has been buffetted by a number of odd controversies. Adams is concentrating on his African-American base while trying to out-flank Vanleer. This should be a stellar race. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 46: **Republican:** David Lohr. **Democrat:** Rep. Vern Tincher. **Geography:** Vigo, Greene, Brown, Monroe, Sullivan counties. **1994 Results:** Lohr 8,160, Tincher 8,034. **1996 Results:** Tincher 9,858, Lohr 9,759, Minx 531. **1998 Forecast:** Word has it that Lohr may succeed Jim Bopp as Vigo County Republican chairman. Both parties have personnel on the ground working what will be one of the most aggressive and vitriolic campaigns this fall. Evan Bayh taped a television ad on behalf of Tincher earlier this week. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 53: **Republican:** Councilman Robert Cherry. **Democrat:** Sarah Wolf. **Libertarian:** Phil Miller. **Geography:** Greenfield, Rushville, Hancock and Rush counties. **1994 Results:** Gulling (R) 13,945 unopposed. **1996 Results:** Gulling (R) 20,174 unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** This is another open seat where Democrats have tracked but aren't revealing much movement on behalf of their candidate. The key development is the entry of Miller, a Libertarian and former manager of a local restaurant. It is the first crucial race that will have a third party candidate to deal with. Who Miller might hurt, presuming he takes 2 or 3 percent of the vote, is up to debate. His entry will have greater significance if Democrats can tighten this race up. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 54: **Republican:** Rep. Tom Saunders. **Democrat:** Donnie Hamilton. **Geography:** New Castle, Henry County. **1994 Results:** Kinser (D) 9,176, Razor (R) 7,853. **1996 Results:**

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TICKER TAPE

simply has no place," Vaughn said.

McBride also reported in the Star/News that lobbying costs hit $12 million by 500 organizations during the 1998 legislative session. During the last short session, lobbying costs were $7.9 million. Sarah Nagy of the Lobbying Commission predicted lobbying costs for the upcoming 1999 legislative session will probably exceed $15 million.

U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer characterized a meeting between President Clinton and the Democratic congressional caucus as "very enthusiastic, upbeat and supprotive" (Cory Oldweiler, Medill News Service). "I'm hopeful that on Aug. 17 he will tell the truth. And then I recommend he get on TV and tell the American people what he testified. I have no idea whether he is telling the truth, and I don't think anybody in this town does except for him, his wife and his God." Asked if Roemer would mind Clinton campaigning on his behalf in the 3rd CD, Roemer said, "I'm sure he's got higher priorities than my race. He's never won my district. He's never won my state."

State Rep. Jeff Espich, ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee,

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TICKER TAPE

charged that the Indiana Teachers Retirement Fund has lost out on $100 million because it did not invest quickly enough in the bullish stock market. The pension fund invested $200 million in the stock market last week. In contrast, the Indiana Public Employee Retirement Fund has invested $1.5 billion in stocks since May 1997, earning $14.4 million on its investment (Stuart Hirsch, Indianapolis Star/News).

Indiana Republicans appear to be responding positively to the idea of a Midwestern presidential primary that would be scheduled for April 4, 2000. Many believe that Indiana's May primary is too late to influence the decision on who is nominated for president. Kansas Attorney General Ron Thornburgh is leading the charge for a Midwestern primary similar to the Super Tuesday primary in the South. Indiana Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy said after meeting with Thornburgh, "I think the idea has merit; I'm not sure by 2000" (Stuart Hirsch, Indianapolis Star/News).

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder has announced he will conduct random drug tests for his staff members. "If I believe it is good enough for others, we ought to do it, too," Souder

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HORSE RACE

Saunders 11,298, Copenhaver 10,221. **1998 Forecast:** Paul Mannweiler arranged for Saunders to get the National Legislator of the Year Award. Democrats countered that Saunders did not get one bill he wrote passed last session. Our read is that Mannweiler saw the need to bolster Saunders. Democrats will be making a play for "Bayh Republicans" to split their tickets and support Hamilton. Said Speaker Gregg, "We feel good about this race." But there is no tracking data available yet. This could be an excellent race. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 56: **Republican:** Ken Paust **Democrat:** Rep. Richard Bodiker. **Geography:** Richmond, Wayne County. **1994 Results:** Bodiker 7,142, Hamm 7,087. **1996 Results:** Bodiker 10,772, Hamm 8,159. **1998 Forecast:** "Landslide Dick" is working hard, Democrats say. But they acknowledge that this could be a real tough race, particularly if the Clinton scandals turn this race away from local issues and into a national dynamic. Bodiker was able to survive such a national tidal wave in 1994 - but barely. The difference is that Paust is a much more credible candidate than Hamm was. Democrats plan to target Paust's record on raising taxes while a member of the county council. There is not tracking data available on this race.. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

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 have tracking data in on the open seats, but this race didn't come up despite previous high hopes. That appears to mean that Ellington's base probably hasn't eroded significantly. Democrats were hoping to make this into enough of a race to draw in GOP resources, then appeal to bitter supporters of Rep. Bales to jump parties and support a conservative Democrat who used to be on the staff of conservative U.S. Senator Thad Cochran. That could still happen - Welch is an energetic, dynamic candidate - but they have their work cut out for them. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

House District 67: **Republican:** Rep. Cleo Duncan. **Democrat:** Ed Goble. **Geography:** Decatur, Ripley, Switzerland counties. **1994 Results:** Duncan 9,672, Goble 9,369. **1996 Results:** Duncan 12,598, Kellerman 9,474. **1998 Forecast:** We see little evidence that Goble can complete his political comeback and make this a race. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

House District 73: **Republican:** Grayson Goodness. **Democrat:** Dennis 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:** Tracking indicates that Oxley is in pretty good shape despite the rift between the Oxley and Birk camps following the primary. More people are mad at Heeke. But Gov. O'Bannon went to Jasper to appeal for safe schools and a safe Democratic Party and apparently everyone took the peace pipe. If seats like HD 73 shift toward the toss-up zone following the Starr report, could signal the coming blood bath for Democrats. **Status:** *Likely D.*

House District 80: **Republican:** John Becker. **Democrat:** Rep. Ben GiaQuinta. **Geography:** Southern Fort Wayne. **1994 Results:** Becker 5,206, GiaQuinta 5,199. **1996 Results:** GiaQuinta 7,707, Becker 6,365. **1998 Forecast:** Evan Bayh taped a TV ad for Gia Quinta earlier this week. Best bet for Republicans is a 1994 scenario where the dynamic of the race changes from local to national issues. The bad news for Democrats is that potential is there, thanks to the Clinton sex scandal. We're keeping this in the toss-up zone until we see how Kenneth Starr's impeachment report plays out. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 94: **Republican:** Rep. Candy (Morris) Marendt. **Democrat:** Jeb Bardon. **Geography:** NW Indianapolis. **1994 Results:** Morris (Marendt) 7,838, Reasoner 5,537. **1996 Results:** Marendt 10,396, Hinman 9,586, Neal 422. **1998 Forecast:** We're watching this race closely, but have seen little evidence that Marendt is in trouble. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 97: **Republican:** Ray Schultz. **Democrat:** Rep. Ed Mahern. **Geography:** Southern Indianapolis. **1994 Results:** Heffley 4,782, Cantwell 4,037. **1996 Results:** Mahern 6,368, Heffley 5,372. **1998 Forecast:** Democrats have a field staffer in place to protect this seat from a credible Republican challenger. Key will be turnout. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson's re-elect numbers (38 percent) cannot be reassuring to the Mahern camp. But remember, the undefeated Carson has always been able to turn out her base, and that should help Mahern. As with other tight races, a change in the national dynamic swirling around President Clinton could be ominous. **Status:** *Toss-up.*

✍ *Brian A. Howey*

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

City boy goes back home to reflect on a day at the harbor

DUNELAND BEACH - The rain finally broke Saturday afternoon and it was time to break out of the cottage where my vacation had been held hostage for nearly a week and get my two young sons to the zoo.

It was the Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City. After we had watched the monkeys, goats, sloths and hyenas, it was a time for a stroll to the park. As I walked across the street and could see the the bandstand, my mind went back in time - almost two years - to Aug. 28, 1996. That was the day President Clinton's 21st Century Express came to Michigan City - to that very bandstand.

In what will be one of the highlights of my analytical career, we rode from Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago along with Evan Bayh, Frank and Judy O'Bannon, Joe Andrew, Jeff Modisett, Pam Carter and a busload of reporters and a police escort to Michigan City's Washington Park. We would be greeting President Clinton along with about 10,000 other folks, and then watch him chopper out over 35 miles of Lake Michigan and into Chicago for his coronation at the Democratic National Convention.

My mind was also in the present in this, my boyhood home. It was a place I had been to many times. I took my sons to the lighthouse where we meandered along the coast for a couple of hours, and then into the playground. I sat at a picnic table as they galloped to the swings and rides, and looked and listened. There was the Harris Family Reunion behind me in a pavilion. All the kids of this vibrant African-American family were wearing yellow t-shirts and shortly after I got there, they were called into the pavilion where the singing and dancing commenced. They were having a blast.

Nearby - just outside the pavilion - were about 15 men and boys of Hispanic descent, playing touch football. One of the elders of this group - a wild and crazy looking, shirtless dude, would go crazy and shout after each touchdown. The family at the nearby picnic tables - a group of Hispanics and whites - laughed with his every outburst.

There was a wedding going on at the bandstand, where everyone was dressed up.

The playground itself was a burst of activity with kids of every color. But it wasn't a race thing. There was a young couple with their two kids - one older - doing what they should be doing on a Saturday which is doting on their kids. There was harmony here.

It sounds corny, but my mind then transcended it all with President Clinton's voice, a big, booming voice at the United Center at the glitzy convention. He talked about the "bridge to the 21st Century" where America would become a land of all peoples in harmony, pursuing education, jobs, safe neighborhoods and happiness. And there it was - the President's vision - before me where thousands had come a short time ago just to see him.

I heard that speech on the day Dick Morris resigned from the Clinton-Gore campaign because of his cavorting with a prostitute. Perhaps it was a harbinger of things to come. On this day, the messenger of that golden vision I was now watching was embroiled in his own sex scandal; his presidency in peril.

By the next morning, there was the premonition that the man who thought he was going to be the "bridge" president - taking us from the 20th to the 21st Century - would not last that long. Legendary attorney Roy Black was telling Tim Russert on *Meet the Press* that the president was in a no-win situation with his coming testimony. There was that semen-stained dress. Woodward and Bernstein would later plead for someone (anyone!) with a clear mind to step in and avert the looming tragedy.

My mind gazed on: that night when our motorcade left Michigan City, going down the Franklin Street I knew as a kid, lights flashing, with folks streaming out of their homes and shops to catch a glimpse of a truly awesome American political spectacle.

TICKER TAPE

told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. Souder was responding to a lack of action by House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Minority Leader Richard Gephardt to conduct random drug tests on all House members and staffers.

Indianapolis recorded its 101st homicide on Aug.6 and that prompted Democratic prosecutor candidate Joe Champion to offer a three-point plan to halt what he called "the slaughter." Champion said he would form a permanent homicide unit, prosecute domestic violence cases, and add more sworn Indianapolis police officers. "The prosecutor's role in restoring public safety requires tough new leadership, hard work and common sense Hoosier values. All of these have been lacking in the prosecutor's office the last four years," Champion said of his opponent, incumbent Republican Scott Newman.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon announced that Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis has been chosen as home for the new, high speed Internet2 by the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development. "This will give Indiana an exciting lead in utilizing the fiber optic network and developing other infrastructure and services to sup-

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TICKER TAPE

port this new technology," O'Bannon said. He said the operation center for what is known as the Abilene Project will be fully functional by January 1999. It will link 130 top research universities around the nation.

Stephen Dillion, the Indianapolis attorney, has announced he will run for secretary of state on the Libertarian ticket. Dillon ran for secretary of state in 1994 and for governor in 1996.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar said Tuesday on NBC's Today Show following the African embassy bombings, "It does not appear Saddam Hussein is particularly fearful of American military authority."

Unpaid taxes on 8th CD candidate's spousal business throws a major kink at Democrats

EVANSVILLE - Since this time last summer, 8th CD Democratic challenger Gail Riecken had conducted a stellar campaign, creating the impression that she had one of the better shots at picking up a Republican seat.

That all changed over the past three weeks when Alan Julian of the *Evansville Courier* began reporting that Riecken's husband, Ron, had been paying property taxes on less than half of the land where he owns a marina.

"This doesn't have anything to do with Gail," Riecken protested to the *Courier*.

But Jeff Knight, speaking on behalf of U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, said, "I think everyone should pay their taxes. I think the Rieckens need to explain this."

A subsequent story revealed that Ron Riecken's Inland Marina wasn't paying property taxes on docks and piers. Eighth CD Republicans began gloating over the story of the Evansville city councilwoman's husband who seemed to get a special tax break on his business.

Gail Riecken responded by saying, "This kind of negative mud-slinging has got to stop. I'm going to stand next to my husband."

She added, "It is apparent that Hostettler or his surrogates dug through tax records to come up with this issue."

By July 30, the Courier reported a resolution to the matter this way: owner Ron Riecken "has agreed to settle a property tax dispute that blew up in the midst of his wife's campaign." The newspaper reported that the marina property had been removed from the Pigeon Township tax rolls in 1991.

Ron Riecken was quoted as saying he "still felt the property tax dispute was grounded in politics."

While the daily bleeding the Riecken campaign took in the press has now ended, Democrats, who need to regain the 8th CD in order to have any hopes of picking up the 11 seats needed to take control of the U.S. House, will have to brace themselves on two fronts: The potential the tax issue has for Hostettler campaign television ads this fall, as well as any fallout from the Clinton sex scandal.

In the world of hardball politics in the Bloody 8th CD, the necessity of having your finances in order has been a painful lesson for one of the brightest Democratic rising stars.

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