THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'Sue Anne Gilroy is not a nice person. So people call her a witch...."

- Indiana Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew at a rally last weekend in Anderson, quoted in the Anderson Herald-Bulletin

Crosswinds still blow in Indiana

Leising emerges; House still at stake

By BRIAN A. HOWEY *in Indianapolis*

The political crosswinds continue to swirl across Indiana. As Republican 9th CD nominee Jean Leising emerged as a good bet to win in Southeastern Indiana, the GOP stands on the brink of possibly losing legislative seats in Kokomo and - incredibly - Bloomington.

In the 9th CD, the aversion to President Clinton's scandals seemed to be fueling Leising's emergence, even as he brokered an incredible Israeli-Palestinian peace accord that had Hoosier Republicans and Democrats shaking their heads in political awe.

As gay rights activists commemorated the murder of a Wyoming college student in Indiana churches, 1996 LG nominee George Witwer joined with House Minority Leader Paul Mannweiler to announce that 65 candidates for the House and Senate were backing his "Contract With Indiana" that called for school choice, a spending cap, and requiring every able-bodied welfare recipient to work. It will likely be that coalition that will push the GOP's "cultural war" against gay adoptions.

As Witwer and U.S. Rep. David McIntosh funneled money into more than a dozen House contests, state Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew was exhorting his party's base to get to the polls. "Two years before the beginning of the next millenium, at a time of tremendous change and great decisions, the bedrock of democracy is being abandoned all over this country," he said. "Democracy done in, not by a dictator, not by a madman, not even by a scumbag, but by overwhelming complacency and apathy.

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BOB LANG

TICKER TAPE

There is growing speculation that Indianapolis is in the driver's seat to land the 2000 Republican National Convention. High-ranking GOP sources tell HPR that the key rival appears to be Philadelphia, which has offered a $35 million incentive package, compared to $25 million for Indianapolis. Mayor Stephen Goldsmith told WRTV on Monday that if it comes down to Indy and another city, officials would probably have a chance to fine tune the city's proposal.

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats cast his final vote in Congress against the $520 billion budget bill. "Last year's celebrated Balanced Budget

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Stretch, *from page 1*

"So Democrats don't show up. They don't vote. So who does? The weirdos, the wackos, the extremists, the single-issue voters, and the brainwashed and brain dead of the far right Republican Party."

Nationally, Republicans appeared to be trending better this week than last. CNN/USA Today/Gallup had the Congressional generic at 49 percent Republican and 47 percent Democratic. It was a virtual dead heat last week while Republicans were leading by between 8 and 11 points earlier this month. On the question of enthusiasm for voting, 44 percent of the Republicans were, compared to only 32 percent for the Democrats.

National analyst Stuart Rothenberg noted that his own race-by-race analysis shows few incumbents "poised for defeat" and no net change in the U.S. House, but he continues to project a net gain of six to 10 seats for the Republicans.

The reason for his "disconnect"? Money. Republicans will have a $7 million to $25 million advantage over Democrats in late soft money issue ad and GOTV funds.

And the "stretch effect."Rothenberg says that Democrats rebounded in early October, but added, "I doubt the Democrats have leveled the political playing field entirely."

So while incumbents seem to be doing well here in Indiana (we forecast re-election victories by U.S. Reps. Julia Carson and John Hostettler last week), the two GOP legislative House seats on the bubble - Jeff Ellington in HD60 in Bloomington and Karen Burkhardt in HD30 in Kokomo - feature two candidates who haven't been on the November ballot for those offices before.

As things stand now, HPR is forecasting Republicans to take two out of three hotly contested Congressional seats, while the Indiana House will end up either in a 50/50 split or 51-49 percent either way. If we had to wage money on it, we'd go with the split. And there is a strong, notion that when the dust settles late next Tuesday night, we're all going to be surprised at something in this extremely strange election.❖

President Clinton helped save himself by creating a ho-hum mid-term election

By Mark Schoeff Jr. *in Washington*

Retiring Rep. Lee Hamilton has been showered with many accolades as he prepares to leave Capitol Hill after more than three decades of serving CD 9. His leadership, wisdom and decency stand out in today*s political arena, which is inexorably heading to lower depths of civility.

But this fall, the most striking aspect of Hamilton's character may have been his electoral acumen. On the September day that Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr delivered his report to Congress, Hamilton cut through the swirling conventional wisdom winds that were buffeting Democrats and threatening to dash their boat against rock Monica.

"I'm not gloomy. I'm not pessimistic," he said regarding Democratic chances in the November election. There were still six weeks remaining before voters go to the polls. Plenty of time remained for Democrats to turn things around.

This wasn't a vacuous statement from a firebrand partisan trying to prop up a president from his party. Hamilton has been tough on Clinton, denouncing his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and casting a vote in favor of the Republican impeachment inquiry measure.

What Hamilton offered on Sept. 11 was a lesson in political reality: Don't jump to conclusion on a question as volatile as who is going to win an election. It looks as if Hamilton will turn out to be prophetic.

The Democrats will probably survive by doing about as poorly this year as the president's party usually does in an off-year election. They'll lose House and Senate seats, but will avoid getting blown away, as some were breathlessly predicting in September.

"Survival" may be spun by the Clintonites as a "win." The president's political skill cannot be understated. Less than one week after Congress approved an impeachment inquiry for only the third time in history, Clinton had the GOP on the defensive in a game he has consistently won - the budget battle.

CONGRESS WATCH

"He succeeded in positioning himself and Democrats in Congress as advocates for senior citizens and better education for children," said Kevin Shaw Kellems, of Kellems Dollaghan Communications, an Indiana-based political consulting firm. "It wasn't enough to create Democratic momentum, but it was enough to slow the hemorrhaging."

Clinton usually helps himself whenever he can concentrate on being President of the United States, pursuing narrow issues rather than taking on enormous challenges that can only be addressed by presidential leadership. To his credit, he forged a Middle East peace agreement last week that gave him good television and ink.

Through budget wrangling and a foreign policy achievement, Clinton did the equivalent of turning around a football game by scoring big right after halftime. Coaches say that the first minutes of the third quarter are crucial. Clinton owned the political third quarter this year.

How that will affect the election is hard to predict. Will the GOP base combine anger over Clinton's ethical shortcomings with traditional discipline to get to the polls in greater number than Democrats? Or will the Democratic base and independents be so turned off by the impeachment proceedings that they create a backlash against Republican candidates?

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TICKER TAPE

Amendment has been violated," said Coats, who was joined by U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and Reps. John Hostettler and David McIntosh in voting against the bill. Said McIntosh, "This bill raids the budget surplus to pay for more government and bigger spending."

U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton assessed the Starr Report and Congressional response recently. Said Hamilton, "The Starr report presents a strong case of presidential misconduct. The evidence that the President lied under oath about the relationship with Ms. Lewinsky is persuasive. The President does not challenge the basic facts of the report, which paint a devastating portrait. The question on my mind is how best to get through the next two years with the least harm to the country."

Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel took part in a roast of Hamilton at the Indianapolis Athletic Club last week. He spied 10th CD Democratic candidate Baron Hill in the crowd and said, "It's good to see Baron Hill here in Indianapolis" and offered him a place to stay for the weekend.

Some 148 legislative candidates out of 215 running responded to an Associated

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TICKER TAPE

Press survey on public record access laws. AP said that a "clear majority" said fines should be levied against officials who violate public access laws. Of the candidates responding, 77 were Republican, 58 were Democrats and 12 were Libertarians.

Gambling revenues have pumped $1.4 billion into Indiana government coffers since 1990, plus an additional $88 million into local and county governments (Mike Chambers, Evansville Courier). Chambers' story read, "Social scientists have long warned about the addictive nature of gambling on society, but few warn of how government can get hooked." About 56 percent of state gambling revenues have been earmarked for motor vehicle excise tax reductions. Said State Sen. Greg Server of Indiana governments, "Whether they relish it or not, gambling gives them a real comfort zone."

Preliminary U.S. Census statistics released by the Indiana Business Research Center at IU projects that Indiana will not lose a congressional seat during federal reapportionment. The report predicts that Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio and Illinois all will lose one seat. Big gainers would be Texas, Arizona, Georgia, all picking up two seats. There is a real hot Indiana

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Clinton, *from page 3*

As HPR and other polls have suggested, it looks as if it will be a good year for incumbents. GOP Rep. John Hostettler in CD 8 and Democratic Rep. Julia Carson in CD 10 appear to have established leads in their races, diluting the excitement in two of Indiana's three hotly contested races.

Photo finish in the 9th CD

The race for Hamilton's open seat appears headed for a photo finish. Democrat Baron Hill has amassed a larger campaign war chest than Republican Jean Leising. But Leising, a former state senator, maintains a lead in several polls. In the last quarter, she raised more money than Hill, even though Hill had $72,000 more in cash on hand.

As she strives for the third time to win the CD 9 seat, Leising could be forgiven for feeling like an Indiana GOP stepchild. Some in her own party doubted whether she could pose a strong challenge to Hill. In June, she almost plaintively maintained she could win and prove the naysayers wrong.

Now it looks as if she has a legitimate shot. The image of Leising as a loser is fading. Amy Walter, House editor of the Cook Political Report, said three factors make the 9th CD competitive: it's an open seat; it's a conservative district; and the national GOP is backing Leising. The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) has targeted the 9th CD and is running issues ads supporting Leising as part of its $37 million Operation Breakout. The committee is buying significant television time for ads focusing on education and taxes.

"National participation in the 9th District has been a windfall (for Leising)," said Kellems. The NRCC "decided this is one they can win, and they have been acting accordingly."

Hill has fought back on the air. He's currently up with spots on Social Security and his own bio. He's been campaigning throughout the district this week with Hamilton and Gov. Frank O'Bannon. Hill and Hamilton scheduled a press conference in Madison on Oct. 28 to outline proposed infrastructure improvements for the area.

In both of the southern Indiana districts, characterizing the opposition as being too liberal may not be an easy sell for the GOP candidates. Both Hill and CD 8 challenger Gail Riecken have portrayed themselves as better government Democrats, not bigger government Democrats. "Government should be resource-driven by local initiatives, because for so long it has been driven from the top down," Riecken said during a summer trip to Washington.

Although Clinton can take part of the credit for ushering in an era in which more and more Democrats are moving to the middle, his own legacy will depend on the election results next Tuesday. If the conventional wisdom is turned on its head again and the GOP scores big, it will give momentum to the impeachment inquiry that could force Clinton out of office prematurely. One thing is certain. The president won't be yawning Tuesday night.❖

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- Contact HPR Publisher Brian Howey on Election Night by paging 317-320-2722 for latest information.
- Listen to HPR's Brian Howey for Election Night analysis and commentary on WIBC-AM 1070 along with Eric Berman, Andy Jacobs, John Okeson and the WIBC News Team.

Indiana Racing Form

Ol' Horse still sticking with 50/50 split prediction

HORSE RACE

Key Republicans are predicting a 51-49 advantage in the Indiana House. Their Democratic counterparts are forecasting their own 51-49 lead. So we'll split the difference and forecast a 50/50 split. The decisive races appear to be the open seat in Bloomington, Republican incumbent Karen Burkhardt in Kokomo, and Democrat incumbents Vern Tincher in the Terre Haute area and Dick Bodiker in Richmond. If the parties maintain the status quo in those seats, it's time to feed the ol' Horse a banana split.

In our status report, **Toss-Up** means the race is within a statistical margin of error or we're on to something; **Leans** is just outside the margin of error and up to, say, 9 percent; **Likely** is about 10 to 15 points and a good gut feeling, and **Solid** means watch out for a landslide.

INDIANA 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:** Helmke is picking up some impressive endorsements from the Fort Wayne newspapers, the Indianapolis Star and others. But it will be too little, too late. **Status:** *Solid D.*

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

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. **Democrat:** New Castle Mayor Sherman Boles. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Forecast:** This race is taking on added dimension because McIntosh is acting very much like a 2000 gubernatorial candidate. He's even advertising in the far-flung Terre Haute media market. A big win, along with coattails for Indiana House candidates in Muncie, New Castle and Richmond, where he's pouring in resources, and you may be witnessing the beginnings of a statewide juggernaut that knows no fear and another chapter for what looks to be an epic political career in the making. **Status:** *Solid R.*

Congressional District 3: Republican: Dan Holtz. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer. **Geography:** South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Roemer 72,497, Burkett 58,787. 1996 Results: Roemer 114,381, Zakas (R) 80,748, Taylor (L) 2,331. **1998 Forecast:** Bad strategy and media doom Holtz unless he rides an unexpected wave. **Status:** *Likely D.*

Congressional District 4: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **De mocrat:** Mark Wehrle. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Huntington, NE Indiana. **1994 results:** Souder 83,466, Long 65,956. **1996 Results:** Souder 118,344, Houseman (D) 76,152, Bisson (L) 4,743 . **1998 Forecast:** Souder is one of the most fascinating public officials we've witnessed. He returns easily for a third term. **Status:** *Solid R.*

Congressional District 5: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Democrat:** David Steele. **Geography:** Kokomo, Marion, Peru, Monticello, Lowell, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Buyer 108,575, Beatty 43,619, Alfred (L) 3,328. **1996 Results:** Buyer 133,604, Clark (D) 67,125, Lehman (L) 5,255. **1998 Forecast:** This race has tightened up. Reliable GOP

TICKER TAPE

Senate race going on in Hartford City, where Republican Sen. David Ford is being challenged by Mark Townsend. The Democrat was sharply critical of Ford using a state-paid legislative mailer this fall. "The fact that the mailer was sent only to Republican and independent voters shows it was purely for political purposes," Townsend said. Ford, meanwhile, complained bitterly about what he called negative ads being run by Townsend, saying they distorted his record and took some of his votes out of context. "I first heard about the latest Townsend TV ad when I called my wife to let her know I was on my way home and she was crying," said Ford (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette).

8th CD candidates John Hostettler and Gail Riecken took part in an on-line chat on the Internet earlier this week. Rep. Hostettler took part for an hour on Monday, Riecken on Tuesday and Libertarian Paul Hager on Wednesday in an event sponsored by the Evansville Courier, WFIE-TV and Evansville Online. The text of the candidates can be found at this address: www.decision98.evansville.net .

A good part of the 2nd CD debate between U.S. Rep. David McIntosh and New

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TOSS-UPS (4)

30TH - BURKHARDT V. HERRELL

46TH - LOHR V. TINCHER

56TH - PAUST V. BODIKER

60TH - ELLINGTON V. WELCH

LEANS R (5)

24TH - McCLAIN V. FINCHER

26TH - SCHOLER V. CLAPPER

53RD - CHERRY V. WOLF V. MILLER

54TH - HAMILTON V. SAUNDERS

94TH - MARENDT V. BARDON

LEANS D (4)

19TH - KUZMAN V. GASPAROVIC

34TH - VANLEER V. ADAMS

80TH - BECKER V. GIA QUINTA

97TH - SCHULTZ V. MAHERN

sources say Steele is within 5-7 points. Steele endorsed by *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* and *Logransport Pharos-Tribune*. Buyer started campaigning last Monday and is now running TV. Spread may be more to his absence than a reaction to impeachment inquiry. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

Congressional District 6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton. **Democrat:** Bob Kern. **Geography:** Greenfield, Franklin, Tipton, Indianapolis collar counties. **1994 results:** Burton 136,876, Bruner 40,815. **1996 Results:** Burton 189,461, Dillard-Tramell (D) 58,362, Peterson (L) 5,295. **1998 Forecast:** Burton wins easily. Big question is whether Libertarian Hauptmann can out-poll Democrat Bobby Kern. **Status:** *Solid R.*

Congressional District 7: Republican: U.S. Rep.Ed Pease. **Democrat:** Samuel "Dutch" Hillenburg. **Geography:** Terre Haute, Lafayette and Western Indiana. **1994 results:** Myers 104,359, Harmless 55,941. **1996 Results:** Pease 130,010, Hellmann (D) 72,705, Bourland (L) 7,125. **1998 Forecast:** Pease is a rising star in what has been a high-caliber and extremely interesting Hoosier Congressional delegation. He returns. **Status:** *Solid R.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Evansville Councilwoman Gail Riecken. **Libertarian:** Paul Hager. **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:** Big names stream into the district - Dan and Marilyn Quayle for Hostettler; Dick Gephardt for Riecken. *Evansville Courier* endorses Hostettler, citing his "attitude of fiscal restraint and reduced federal responsibility." Hostettler also picks up the endorsement of the Senior Power Campaign Committee. We still see Hostettler in the driver's seat, but it will always be razor thin, so we're leaving this one as a toss-up. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: Jean Leising. **Democrat:** Baron Hill. **Libertarian:** Diane L. Feeney. **Geography:** New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459, Leising 84,315. 1996 Results: Hamilton 128,885, Leising 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Forecast:** Leising appears headed to a victory despite a campaign that seemed to be in turmoil for a good part of the year. RNCC poll shows Leising leading Hill 51-41 percent. In year of incumbents, maybe her third time on the ballot is giving her the edge. Issue ads may have kept Leising in the game. Hill is just now bringing out his twin cannons - Lee Hamilton and Gov. O'Bannon - to shore up support. Monday Hill and Hamilton stopped in New Albany, Tell City, Dale and Jasper. On Tuesday, O'Bannon barnstormed with Hill through Aurora, Versailles, Madison, Jeffersonville, Scottsburg, North Vernon and Seymour. Clinton scandals seem to play bigger here than elsewhere in the state, which also benefits Leising. Hamilton tells the *Louisville Courier-Journal* the race is a toss-up. The *J-C*'s Karen Merk quotes the late Bill Schreiber on Hill: "He came to us as a conservative-to-moderate personality and has emerged as a moderate-to-progressive." *C-J* article on Leising plays up her role in authoring Indiana's informed consent abortion law which plays with the Bailey supporters. Leising tells *C-J* that RNCC comments published in HPR that Frank Thompson should leave her campaign "bothered her," but that she views her husband as an asset. We still think this race will tighten up once Hamilton hits the campaign trail for Hill. But Leising has the advantage now. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

Congressional District 10: Republican: Gary Hofmeister. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Libertarian:** Fred C. Peterson. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **1994 results:** Jacobs (D) 58,573, Scott 50,998. **1996 Results:** Carson 90,869, Blankenbaker 69,248, St. Angelo (L) 3,505. **1998 Forecast:** Hofmeister takes gloves off with unflattering ad of Carson and her votes for early release of violent criminals. Carson says she will resist responding. That seems to reaffirm what we saw in last week's HPR-TeleResearch Poll that gave Carson a 55-37 lead.. Quayle campaigned for Hofmeister last weekend. Virginia Blankenbaker appeared on WMYF's Mark Shaw Show and berated Hofmeister, lending credence to the notion of her supporters bailing on the Republican. Hofmeister denies state Democratic party flier saying he favors putting Social Security money into stock market and compares it to the '96 "Mediscare" campaign. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

INDIANA HOUSE RACES

House District 19: Republican: Nick Gasparovic. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Kuzman. Geography: Crown Point, south Lake County. **1994 results:** Conlon (R) 8,850, McCall (D) 5,280. **1996 Results:** Kuzman (D) 12,236, Sparks (R) 10,453. **1998 Forecast:** Gary Post-Tribune endorses Gasparovic, but Kuzman did not vote Gary's way much. Republicans think Gasparovic has momentum, but we believe Kuzman returns. **Status:** *Likely D.*

House District 24: Republican: Rep. Rick McClain. **Democrat:** Logansport Councilman Mike Fincher. **Geography:** Logansport, Cass, Carroll counties. **1994 Results:** McClain 10,421, Frantz 7,686. **1996 Results:** McClain 15,538 (unopposed) . **1998 Forecast:** Fincher gains during Logansport debate. Caught McClain flat footed on school-to-work program. Democratic tracking had McClain up by 11 points, with Fincher closing the gap. We're betting on McClain. **Status:** *Leans 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:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer's ads cite his Kokomo strengths in an attempt to help his sister. *Kokomo Tribune* endorses Burkhardt. Teachers unions rip Burkhardt as they endorse Herrell and pump $20,000 into his campaign. All indications are this goes to the wire and is one of two best shots for a Democratic pickup. But look for Burkhardt to squeak through. **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:** Muncie blacks upset with Delaware County party, but are still committed to Adams. Hurley Goodall will make sure of that. We believe Adams will prevail, but he will have to fend off a major effort from the McIntosh machine. **Status:** *Leans D.*

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:** Vigo County GOP headquarters burns, but Lohr gets good exposre in Terre Haute and Indianapolis TV markets wearing a campaign hat in rubble. Still, the Evan Bayh coattails look strongest here and that could help Tincher prevail, so he gets a very slight, slight edge. **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 has been a gutter brawl, but Cherry emerges. **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:** Saunders 11,298, Copenhaver 10,221. **1998 Forecast:** LG Joe Kernan stumps for Hamilton at the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, citing his experience as an educator. "Gov. O'Bannon has made it clear that as we enter the 1999 session, his priority and the priority of the state is education," Kernan said., urging people to "elect an educator" to the General Assembly. We still see Saunders in relatively good shape. **Status:** *Leans R.*

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:** This may be the Republican's best shot at knocking off an incumbent. McIntosh efforts could have an impact. *Palladium-Item* endorsement really legitimizes his candidacy. Democratic tracking has Bodiker over 50 percent. **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:** This race has dramatically tightened and is now a toss-up. Ellington's campaign went in a defensive mode and lost message. Welch's radiant personality and good advertising

TICKER TAPE

Castle Mayor Sherman Boles centered on the impeachment question. "The president's personal life leaves a lot to be desired," Boles said. "But he does a good job as president. People trust the president when it comes to the economy." McIntosh said, "It is an important issue, but more important is the moral leadership message being sent to our young people." On another topic, Boles said NAFTA "is the worst thing the country ever did. NAFTA will destroy the country because we're putting people at risk in the name of profits" (Anderson Herald-Bulletin).

1996 Presidential nominee Bob Dole campaigned in Evansville for Rep. Hostettler last week and said, "Character still counts in America. We want leaders representing us who understand faith and values and honesty and integrity." About 300 people attended the rally.

State Rep. Mark Kruzan wrote legislation to prohibit the telephone business practices of slamming and cramming. Eight months later, Kruzan opened his own phone bill and learned he himself had been slammed. "I wrote the bill based on other people's stories," said Kruzan (Steve Hinnefield, Bloomington Herald-Times).

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TICKER TAPE

U.S. Rep. Ed Pease officially gaveled to a close the 105th Congress. Pease, a rising star freshman, was serving as Speaker Pro Tempore of the House when the session ended at 5:56 p.m. Oct. 21.

Dan Quayle appears to have coined a new phrase: "Waitress Mom." Melinda Henneberger writing for the New York Times quoted Quayle at the Allen County Republican Bean Dinner in Fort Wayne, saying, "Think of the waitress that works extra hours at night so she can buy a book for her child. She might want to be at her son or daughter's soccer game, but she has to work because of high

campaign is paying off. IMA poll has Welch slightly ahead. Democratic tracking has her within the margin of error. Welch says she will not be a "tax and spend legislator." Asked if she will support a $1 billion property tax cut, Welch said, "What's going to happen in one to two years when the surplus is gone?" (*Herald-Times*). Some Bales supporters may sit this race out. This could be the upset of the year. **Status:** *TOSS-UP*.

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:** Conservative *News-Sentinel* endorses GiaQuinta. Becker hurt by opposition to skyboxes at the Coliseum. GOP says race is within the margin of error and hope that the Fort Wayne-based Helmke and Tim Berry statewide campaigns will help Becker get in. **Status:** *Leans D.*

House District 94: Republican: Rep. Candy Marendt. **Democrat:** Jeb Bardon. **Libertarian:** Michael A. Neal. **Geography:** NW Indianapolis. **1994 Results:** Morris 7,838, Reasoner 5,537. **1996 Results:** Marendt 10,396, Hinman 9,586, Neal 422. **1998 Forecast:** Marendt appears to be headed to a third term. **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:** We believe Mahern will win a second term in part due to an expected big turnout for U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

INDIANA STATEHOUSE RACES

Secretary of State: Republican: Sue Anne Gilroy. **Democrat:** Cheryl Little. **Libertarian:** Steve Dillon. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers (D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Forecast:** Gilroy gets top marks for political audacity in targeting potential 2000 opponent Gov. Frank O'Bannon on taxes, saying he has been "missing in action" and getting him to respond with paid advertisements. However, newspaper coverage from the *Munster Times* and the *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* was largely negative. The key for Gilroy is whether she pulls in the rest of the GOP Statehouse team (Berry, Nass and Bishop) with her next week that will give her needed momentum against David McIntosh in 2000. We think she has a great chance to do just that. **Status:** *Solid R.*

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