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THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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Million $ elections in Indy, East Chicago?

Primaries to smash spending records

INDIANAPOLIS - Two Indiana mayoral campaigns - one in Indianapolis and the other in East Chicago - will likely obliterate municipal primary campaign spending records.

A number of Democratic sources are saying that East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick and Lake County Democratic Chairman Stephen Stiglich probably will spend a combined $800,000 on an estimated 9,000 voters.

In Indianapolis, Republican businessman Robert Parker says he will spend $600,000 on his insurgent campaign against Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy in the Republican mayoral primary. It is unclear what Gilroy's secretive campaign will spend to counter Parker.

Parker began advertising during the Academy Awards program and Gilroy went on the air last Sunday. It would be reasonable to suggest she will counter Parker somewhere in the $250,000 to $500,000 range.

Parker's spending patterns are bizarre in light of modern campaign patterns. He will have 29 billboards up this week and he ran a full-page ad in the *Indianapolis Star* last week. And he's been showing up in strange places - erecting the Hard Rock Cafe guitar sign on Meridian Street last week for a nifty bit of earned media.

Gilroy has been elusive. Apparently her campaign has decided not to have her take part in community forums and debates in order to protect what they see as her front-runner status. An *Indianapolis Star/News*/WTHR poll conducted earlier this week had her leading Democrat Bart Peterson by a 47-30 advantage, but it did not show horse race numbers against Parker. A February NUVO/TeleResearch Poll had

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'We have in this country managed to take the trivial and make it seem important and take the important and make it seem trivial...'"

- David Halberstam, author and historian, to the Sinai Forum in Michigan City

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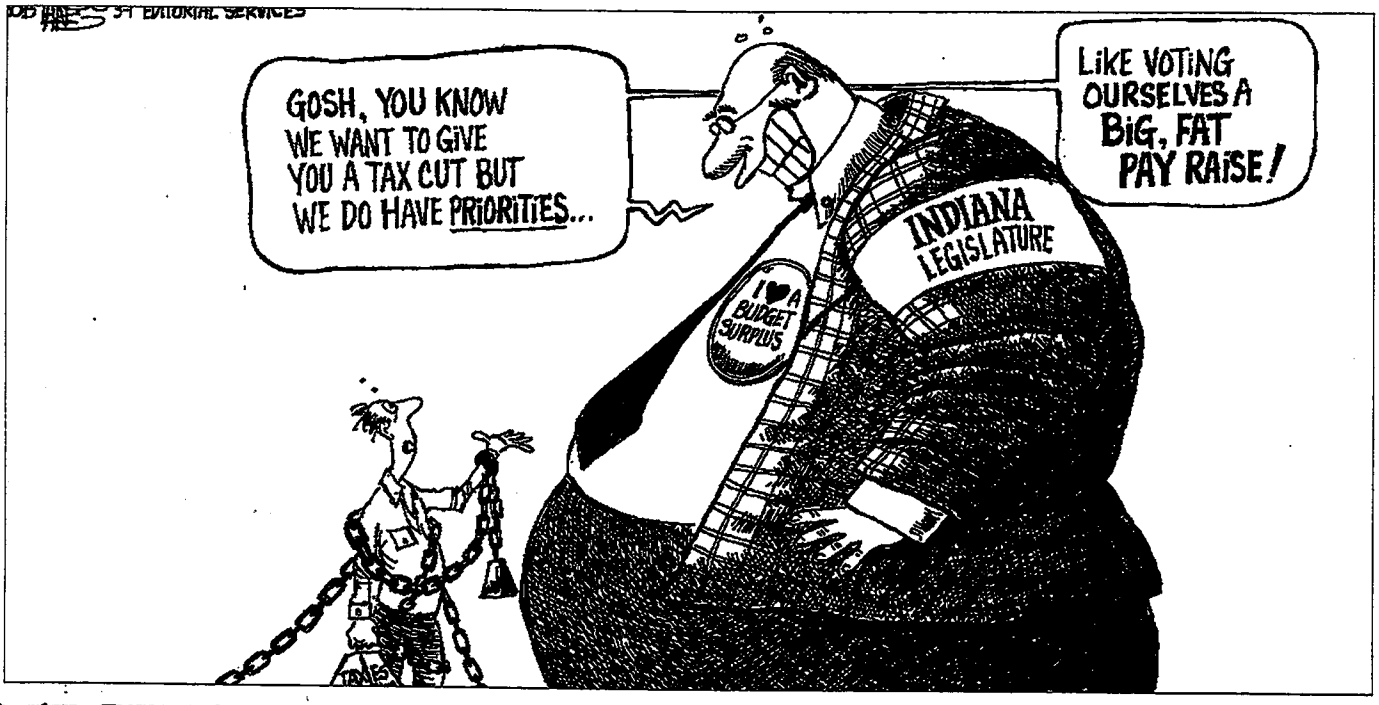

TICKER TAPE

The Indiana Senate Finance Committee propelled by the Republican majority passed a $20 billion budget. But the priorities were far different than those the House passed. Gov. Frank O'Bannon's top priority, full-day kindergartenj, survived, but only as part of a block grant program that would allow individual school districts to decide on how to spend the money. Republicans committed $400 million to pay down underfunded teacher, police and fire pensions.

The Munster Times reported that only six of the 23 school districts in Lake and Porter counties would receive per-student funding increases in the Senate Republicans budget plan.

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Mayoral, *from page 1*

Gilroy leading Peterson by a 41-19 percent and did not ask for a head-to-head with Parker, who had not entered the race at that point.

Gilroy's decision not to take part in a community forum at Butler University brought her stinging criticism from neighborhood groups, particularly when she showed up at a northside bowling alley and contradicted her own campaign by saying that it was a scheduling conflict. Previously campaign director Mark Massa had said a decision had been made not to do pre-primary forums.

Gilroy's elusive campaign strategy is a marked contrast to that of previous Republican mayors Richard Lugar, Bill Hudnut and Stephen Goldsmith, all of whom ran cerebral campaigns where they took every chance they could to articulate their issues and positions. Gilroy's lack of participation in community events has essentially reduced her campaign to that of 30-second TV commercials and plays into a reputation she has as being an "empty suit" on substantive issues.

Parker's TV ads to date have remained unfocused and don't make a good case for why he should be mayor, although they will likely increase his name recognition. What the Republican establishment in Marion County is holding its breath on is whether Parker will do what Steve Forbes did to Bob Dole in the 1996 presidential campaign - go on the attack and bloody up the front-runner so badly that it will doom the party to defeat in the fall.

There is also speculation that Parker will seek Democratic votes, raising the potential for numerous poll site contests of primary voters.

The May Republican primary which was once thought to be foregone conclusion for Gilroy has turned into a minefield of wild cards, considering the insurgent candidacy of Parker, the money he will detract from the fall campaign, and Gilroy's own muddled strategy and lack of communication. A victory margin of less than 60 percent over Parker will signal big trouble for Marion County Republicans in the face of Peterson, who will be well-funded and has a united Democratic Party behind him.

"Louie Mahern was able to raise money," said Democratic consultant Chris Sautter of the 1991 Democratic nominee.

"But he didn't have a united party behind him."

East Chicago donnybrook

The real slugfest in the May primary will occur in East Chicago, described as the last true urban political machine-run city in America. It is a rematch of the 1995 race between Pastrick, who has been mayor for 28 years, and Stiglich. Pastrick defeated Stiglich four years ago by a 49-37 percent margin, with the balance going to then State Sen. Lonnie Randolph. A third candidate this year is the largely unknown George Benevente.

Several things have changed in the dynamic between '99 and '95. Pastrick gave up his reins on the Lake County Democratic organization to Stiglich in 1997 and Stiglich has packed the county Election Board in his favor after a botched 1995 recount.

But Pastrick has benefitted from a windfall of about $10 million a year in riverboat casino revenue - money he has pumped into infrastructure. When the local referendum on the riverboats was on the ballot, Democratic precinct officials got $1,000 each to get out the vote - a dynamic that sources tell HPR could be repeated this May.

"Pastrick begins this race in much better shape than four years ago," said Sautter, who is handling his media. "The boat has brought both economic prosperity and revenue to the city and a fairly massive infrastructure program. Secondly, the mood of the city is much improved than in 1995 when there was an anti-incumbent attitude everywhere in the country. Pastrick has something to show the voters and the voters are feeling much better about the direction the city is going."

The race began as a dead heat four years ago, but recent tracking Sautter is privvy to shows Pastrick with a healthy lead. "The time to have beaten Pastrick was four years ago," Sautter said. "Bob looks much more like a winner now than four years ago."

While Stiglich controls the Lake County organization and the election board, journalists in the region say Pastrick still controls about 24 of the 32 city precincts and has much better state and national ties, which brings in money. Democratic sources tell HPR that Pastrick will spare nothing to win what he says will be his last election.

Could that be $800,000 or $1 million? Sautter was skeptical. "I can't imagine that. I know Pastrick will do the full program - local cable and radio and a lot of direct mail - everything but Chicago media. If either side went into that market that would blow open spending at record levels."

A week's worth of Chicago media would cost about $250,000. "If Stig goes on Chicago TV in a big way, you can bet Pastrick will, too. But I don't think they will."

The reform candidate?

Stiglich is counting on local industry like Ispat Inland, Union Tank Car, GATX - the companies that pay 98 percent of the property taxes in East Chicago - to help fund his campaign. They say that the city's $35 million budget - three times the size of Michigan City's - is bloated with patronage (Mark Skertic, *Indiana Business Magazine*). "When Bob was there the first term or two, he was more hands on," Stiglich told *Indiana Business Magazine*. "But his interest has evaporated and dissipated and he's had it on cruise control."

Thus Stiglich is attempting to position himself as a reform candidate.

Sautter doesn't believe that will sell. "He's not a credible reform candidate. He's had his own problems. It's difficult for someone who is party chair at any level to run as an outsider."❖

TICKER TAPE

House Democrats had pushed a 5 percent funding increase, but the Senate GOP plan increase was staked at 3.8 percent. Senate Finance Committee Chair Larry Borst said, "This is not a bargaining chip. This is the sense of our caucus. We won't be meeting in the middle."

Indiana Republicans were sharply critical of the O'Bannon administration after the Muscatatuck Developmental Center was found to not be meeting basic care standards required for federal Medicaid funds. Gov. Frank O'Bannon visited the center last week and blamed the care problems on a severe staff shortage. But State Rep. Jeff Espich told the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, "It's not a question of money. Not only have we provided every single dollar the administration asked for, but the Family and Social Services Administration has routinely reverted personal services funds. We must stop this game of reversion, especially when the result is that innocent people are hurt." Said State Rep. Brian Bosma, "The pattern of neglect by this administration is clear." Muscatatuck and Fort Wayne centers are currently under investigation by the U.S. Justice Department. When O'Bannon visited the center he told staff mem-

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TICKER TAPE

bers, "We're looking at ways certainly to improve it and get the staffing up because you're overall a very good center."

U.S. Rep. Baron Hill hosted a tax trouble-shooting seminar with an IRS agent in Lawrenceburg last Saturday for his constituents.

The first Toyota Tundras began rolling off the assembly line at the company's Princeton auto plant and will be in dealerships on April 15. A full-scale national ad campaign will begin on May 28.

Missionaries of Charity, the order started by Mother Teresa 50 years ago in Calcutta, India, has opened a mission in Gary.

Hudson Institute's Richard Judy told the Evansville Chamber of Commerce that the "boomer geezer" phenomenon is under way. "The work force in this country is going to have a negative growth rate," said Judy (Evansville Courier). "It's going to be a transforming phenomenon in our society." Judy said that in the next 20 years, the average jobless rate will be 4.7 percent - compared to 6 percent from 1970-1998. He said successful cities of the future will be those that turn their efforts toward work force development.

Former congressman Frank

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Hill tries to emulate Hamilton

9th CD Congressman likely to be targeted by GOP in 2000

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Freshman Rep. Baron Hill is serving in Congress thanks in large part to the help he received in the last election from the man he was running to replace - Lee Hamilton. Now that he is headed toward the traditionally precarious first re-election, Hill must find a balance between emulating his predecessor and making the seat his own.

"I guess that although there is only one Lee Hamilton, the best thing he can do is look as Hamiltonian as humanly possible under the circumstances," said former Rep. Bill Frenzel, R-Minn., a longtime member of Congress who is now a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution. Although he doesn't know Hill, Frenzel said that after going through an election campaign, Hill has demonstrated his personality. "He has to establish that that personality works in Washington as well as Lee Hamilton's did."

Hill edged Republican Jean Leising with less than 51 percent of the vote last year. He trailed her in the polls late in the race, pulling out a victory on the strength of a get-out-the-vote effort led by labor unions and many appearances around the district with Hamilton.

Now that he's in Congress, Hill applies the "Lee Hamilton" test to legislation, pondering what Hamilton would do as he formulates his own position. The comparisons to Hamilton and the large shadow cast by the Hoosier statesman will likely linger. Hamilton, who served for more than 35 years, will be a subject wherever Hill goes for a while.

"He hears that a lot more than he wants to hear it, I'm sure," Hamilton said. "He's been very gracious. But he shouldn't worry about it. I think he ought to be his own man. I have confidence in Baron's instincts, his energy and his dedication to the job."

The key to establishing himself in Congress is time, Hill said. "I'll make my mark. I have confidence in myself. I don't want to translate that into arrogance, of course. Making sure I stay in touch with people is my first priority."

In his travels around the district, where his wife and daughter continue to live, Hill wants to demonstrate that he is just like everyone else. "I'd like to think that when they think of Baron Hill, they think of themselves," Hill said of 9th CD constituents. "I'm one of them. I'm one of their neighbors. I'm a friend. I've lived in southern Indiana all my life. I have that value system in place. I'm accessible. I'm fiscally responsible, and voting for me is like voting for their neighbor."

Fiscal conservativism focus

Fiscal responsibility is the leitmotif in Hill's legislative agenda. Upon arriving in Washington, he wasted no time in joining the New Democrat Coalition and the Blue Dog Democrats, two groups composed of moderate and conservative Democrats. Rep. Tim Roemer is a cofounder of the coalition.

Hill listed his priorities as paying down the federal debt; saving Social Security and Medicare; improving education; and improving health care.

"Fiscal responsibility is always at the forefront for me," said Hill, a former state representative and former head of the State Student Assistance Commission. "We've been over-spending now for 30 years." Now that budget surpluses have become a reality, "I want to make sure we stay on that track," he said. Hill spoke on the House floor last week in favor of the Blue Dog budget proposal. Social Security reform is integral to fiscal responsibility, in Hill's view. He was

appointed by the Democratic caucus to its Social Security Task Force. In his campaign against Leising, Hill used the Social Security theme effectively, pummeling Leising with an ad late in the race that accused her of supporting a "risky" scheme to privatize Social Security.

Hill backs President Clinton's proposal to set aside 62 percent of the federal budget surplus to pay down the debt and shore up Social Security. He is undecided about the president's plan to establish individual savings accounts that would allow people to invest funds on their own.

"I like the idea of universal accounts, but right now, I'm not sure we should be doing that with the surplus," Hill said. He does favor allowing independent financial managers to invest Social Security Trust Fund money in the stock market to achieve a high yield on the surplus. He opposes the government managing the money itself.

Tax policy relates to Social Security on Hill's agenda. He opposes GOP tax plans. "If we go ahead with the tax cuts the Republicans are putting forward, we're in fact raiding the Social Security Trust Fund in order to get those tax cuts. I think that's wrong because the surplus is generated by Social Security, not by the regular budget. Once we get our fiscal house in order, then we can get on with the possibility of tax cuts."

Hill, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, also supports eliminating federal subsidies for farmers and allowing them more flexibility in deciding what to plant and sell, which became law through the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, written by Sen. Dick Lugar.

Hill to be GOP target

His relentless focus on fiscal rectitude may serve Hill well in 2000, when he'll be facing re-election in a conservative-leaning district. "It's not the kind of district that will elect a liberal Democrat," said Amy Walter, House editor of the Cook Political Report. The Cook Report has designated CD 9 as one of 25 Democratic-held House seats that will be a competitive race in 2000.

"When the seat opened up, Baron Hill was the golden boy of the DCCC (Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee) for the entire cycle," Walter said. "The real question is: Who's left there on the Republican side as a top-tier candidate? I don't see a Republican golden boy in this district."

But if a strong GOP candidate is found, Hill will be challenged. "A good candidate will give Hill a strong race," Walter said.

Jason Beal, chairman of the Floyd County Republican Party, said there are three prospects for Hill's GOP opposition: Leising, Kevin Shaw Kellems, a former Lugar aide, and a "prominent businessman" from the Floyd County area, whom Beal refused to identify. Beal said he is encouraging Kellems to run because of his ties to the district, his political savvy, his familiarity with local politics, and his potential crossover appeal to Democrats.

"There are a number of Hamiliton Democrats that are ready to vote Republican," said Beal. Three issues are key "God, guns, and babies. If (Hill) doesn't align himself with those issues, he'll have trouble attracting conservative Democrats."

"Everything is breaking the Democrats' way," said John Del Cecato, spokesman for the DCCC. "We're focusing on issues that matter most in people's lives. Baron Hill will be no exception."

Hill said he has no plans to make impeachment an issue in 2000. Although he would have voted not to impeach, the House had already impeached Clinton before Hill came to town.

For now, Hill is concentrating on getting home on the weekends to see his family and make inroads in the district. Hamilton believes his successor is succeeding. "He's doing what a freshman member of Congress ought to do, and that's focus on the district," said Hamilton "He doesn't need any advice from me."

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TICKER TAPE

McCloskey, who represents the Federation of Bosnia for Barnes & Thornburg, reacted to the NATO air strikes in Kosovo by saying, "It's the right action. It's probably exceedingly overdue. It's very important to stop this" (Bloomington Herald-Times).

Adams County Judge Lorren D. Caffee has resigned to practice law on the Caribbean island of St. Thomas. Caffee said he didn't like the idea of presiding over cases in a state "dead last" in paying judges (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "I didn't like the idea of sticking around for the rest of my career and seeing our pay scale slide back down," he said.

Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke was blasted by WOWO radio's Tony Richard for "lacking leadership" and then was denied a chance to defend himself later on the Pat White Show while the editorial was being discussed on March 16. WOWO allowed Helmke to tape a response several days later. "I don't question WOWO's right to editorialize," Helmke said. "I was concerned, however, with WOWO's decision to ban me from talking on the Pat White Show after the editorial ran and it was being discussed" (Fort Wayne News-Sentinel). White had replayed the editorial on his

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TICKER TAPE

evening show, then denied Helmke a chance to respond when the mayor called in during an open line segment.

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh has become a co-sponsor of a campaign finance overhaul bill and drew criticism from Indiana Republicans who pointed to his $5.8 million 1998 campaign. Marion County Republican Chairman John Sweezy told the Associated Press that the "pro-Bayh media" had convinced people the Democrat was going to win and discouraged people from contributing to GOP campaigns.

Gov. O'Bannon appointed Peter Andrew Sybinsky to lead the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. Sybinsky served as director of the Hawaii Department of Health, overseeing 6,500 state employees and a $500 million budget. ISSA has 11,000 employees and a $4.7 billion budget.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar asked the General Accounting Office to investigate why retail pork prices have remained relatively stable while hog farmers have experienced a price collapse. "Pork producers are experiencing the lowest prices for their product since 1972," Lugar said. "Many pork producers believe that prices charged

Indiana Racing Form

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

Evansville Mayoral: Republican: County Commissioner Russell Lloyd Jr., David Woll. **Democrat:** Rick Borries, City Councilwoman Gail Riecken, County Councilman Phil Hoy, Lawrence Hall. **1995 Results:** McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. **1999 Forecast:** Riecken tracking shows her with a 2-to-1 lead over Borries. A head-to-head against Republican Lloyd reveals that race would be a dead heat. Borries was up on TV last week. Evansville Police Department has come under criticism for execessive use of force twice in the past week - always a danger sign for the party in power. **Status:** *Toss Up.*

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Allen County Sheriff Joe Squadrito, Linda Buskirk. **Democrat:** Graham Richard, Agnes Hopkins, David Roach. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Forecast:** Squadrito outlines his neighborhood recovery plan that would empower leaders throughout the city by instituting flexible zoning and homeowner initiatives. "If any mayors tell you they know what the problems in these neighborhoods they are sadly mistaken. The people in the neighborhood know" (Journal Gazette).

HORSE RACE

Squadrito said he would bring in the "Front Porch Alliance" initiative that Stephen Goldsmith used to bond churches, government and neighborhood organizations in Indianapolis. Squadrito would also used CEDIT funds to attract business investment. Republican opponent Linda Buskirk said she would leave CEDIT funds for specific neighborhood capital projects. Democrat Graham Richard said the Squadrito plan lacks specifics. "There's a feeling he is out of touch with the community. Second, the perspective he comes from is that the city is in decline. And I reject that." **Status:** *Leans Squadrito.*

Gary Mayoral: Republican: None. **Democrat:** Mayor Scott King, State Rep. Vernon Smith, Calumet Township Assessor Booker Blumenberg Jr. **1995 Results:** King (D) 23,588, Williams (I) 5,482, Boswell (R) 1,108, McCraney (I) 96. **1999 Forecast:** King continues to feud with his city council. He declared war on trash and litter with or without the council's help. "I am sorry the council, despite several opportunities to join in this effort, chose not to," said King (Gary Post-Tribune). King said the Gary Sanitary District Board approved $500,000 to attack the trash problem, saying he saw litter in every part of the city over the weekend. "This hurts our city more than we will ever know," King said. Not much activity from his opponents.. **Status:** *Leans King.*

Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican: Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy, Robert Parker. **Democrat:** Bart Peterson, Jocelyn Tandy-Adande. **Our Party:** Rev. John Gibson. **Libertarian:** Andrew Horning. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Forecast:** *NUVO Newsweekly* reports that a Goldsmith administration Internal Audit Agency report on Garfield Park renovations stated: "Record keeping on the project was extremely poor, and the department has not performed the necessary follow-up to assure that all deliverables were received. Critical project documentation was in many cases missing or imcomplete." NUVO requests for IAA reports on the Indianapolis Housing Authority were met with this statement from administration spokesman Jeff Cox: "It is my understanding that no such document exists." In November Mayor Goldsmith said Indianapolis was "the most audited city in the nation." The city's housing authority is on HUD's "troubled" list. Peterson said the reports underscore the need for State Board of Account scrutiny. Parker says the next mayor may become "the next Hoover - the man who gets all the blame." Gilroy says she didn't read the report. Peterson announces that Gov. Frank O'Bannon, U.S. Rep. Julia Carson and U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh will be co-chairing his campaign. The Democrat also comes out with a charter school plan. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

New Albany Mayoral: Republican: City Clerk Regina Overton. **Democrat:** Mayor Doug England. **1995 Results:** England 6,845, Real (R) 5,886. **1999 Forecast:** Indiana State

Police have launched an investigation into Mayor England's campaign finance operation. *Louisville Courier-Journal* recounts a meeting engineer Al Goodman had with Mayor England back in 1992. Goodman said he was told that since he didn't contribute to England's 1991 campaign, he would not receive city contracts. It reported that 60 percent of the $22,000 in campaign contributions came from individuals or companies that had contracts with New Albany. England acknowledged that flow of money. "Where else are they supposed to come from?" he asked. **Status:** *Leans D.*

Muncie Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Dan Canan. **Democrat:** Louis Coulter, Ralph Smith Jr. **1995 Results:** Canan (R) 9,718, Carey (D) 6,521. **1999 Forecast:** Key Democratic sources tell HPR that Canan will probably win re-election. Keihin Corp. breaks ground for a new plant with 150 news jobs on the way. Gov. O'Bannon states, "Muncie is a model community that like any other has its ups and downs. This is an up." Still hard to tell who will emerge from the Democratic primary to face Canan, but our sources are telling us it won't matter. **Status:** *LIKELY CANAN.*

South Bend Mayoral: Republican: Steve Bradley, Melvin Townsend. **Democrat:** Mayor Steve Leucke, Portage Township Assessor John Vorde, Kevin C. Horton, Zbigniew "Ziggy" Borowski. **1995 Results:** Kernan (D) 14,309, Waite (R) 3,106. **1999 Forecast:** Voorde and Horton come out against annexation. "I think an awful lot of time and energy and expense is wasted fighting the annexation restrictions," Voorde said (South Bend Tribune). "What is seen as an impediment by some could be turned around and used as a competitive advantage." Horton has come out favoring the creation of a countywide park system and the merger of South Bend, Mishawaka and St. Joseph County 911 systems. **Status:** *Safe Leucke.*

INDIANA 2000 RACES

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke, George Witwer, John Price. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **1996 results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** Asked if McIntosh was in the field polling (confirm or deny) and we heard nothing from his brain trust. That means they're in the field polling. Price will make his formal announcement on April 15-16 in his "Little Red Bus." Joining his exploratory committee are Rex Early, Lawrence Mayor Tom Schneider, State Sen. John Waterman, and State Rep. Dennis Kruse. Price says, "There is a widespread feeling in the party that to elect a Republican as governor we need a strong and vigorous issues-oriented campaign. My Senate campaign proved that I can do that." It was a mixed week for O'Bannon. The Senate Republican block grant plan gives him his full-day kindergarten on an optional basis. He could support that as a sterling example of "local control" and then realize a real victory over the ol' Dog Doctor down the road if an overwhelming majority of school districts adopt his plan. That would look mighty good in a TV commercial. Black eye comes from the Muscatatuck Developmental Center, which is under fire from the feds (see Ticker Tape). It was bold for O'Bannon to go down to Butlerville to reassure the staff. But that along with the New Castle debacle and lingering problems at Fort Wayne are giving Republicans like Jeff Espich an opportunity to tee off. **Status:** *Leans Democratic.*

U.S. Senate: Republican: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. **Democrat:** Attorney General Jeff Modisett, David L. Johnson. **1994 results:** Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz (D) 470,799, Bourland (L) 17,343, Barton (A) 15,801. **2000 Forecast:** National Democrats are "wooing" (the word every Indiana newspaper used) Attorney General Jeff Modisett into this race. Another name cropping up is David L. Johnson, a Bakers & Daniels attorney and a kitchen cabinet adviser to Gov. O'Bannon. "I've had a number of people suggesting such a campaign to me - that's true," Modisett told the Associated Press. "But I think I should spend the next few weeks thinking about it before deciding." Our guess is that Modisett won't want to be the sacrificial lamb, particularly in a race almost impossible to win with his two young kids at home. Modisett has already run and won a statewide race. As attorney general, Modisett has maintained a national profile on tobacco and sweepstake scam issues so he doesn't need this

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TICKER TAPE

at the wholesale and retail levels have not dropped by levels comparable to price decline experienced by farmers."

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh made his first address on the Senate floor on March 25 to a mostly empty chamber. "We must get our priorities right," said Bayh. "Preserve Social Security and Medicare, pay off our debts, target tax cuts to help working families, and investments in education and national defense. Our legacy to future generations must be more than an IOU."

Crown Point Mayor James Metros is pushing a proposal that would give municipalities greater autonomy in spending their casino tax revenues (Gary Post-Tribune). Hammond Councilor Bobbi Costa said Metros wants to expand use for casino revenue to public safety and more capital projects. Hobart Mayor Linda Buzinec opposes any change. "I don't want to do anything that would jeopardize any of it," she said.

President Clinton ordered federal law enforcement officials to work with local officials to curb gun violence, citing the Project Exile program in Richmond, Va. That program is charging those arrested on weapon's violations under federal law,

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TICKER TAPE

bringing more lengthy sentences.

Indiana brought in $535 million in tax revenues from riverboat casinos, lottery and horse racing, according to an Indiana University Center for Urban Policy and the Environment study. The Associated Press reported that the amount is expected to increase in 1999.

The legendary Edith "Mama Chickie" McShann - whose brothel provided sexual favors to John Dillinger's gang and South Bend's high ranking officials earlier this century, turned 100 years old on March 21. "U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer sent a congratulatory letter on personal stationary," the South Bend Tribune said.

race for statewide projection. Modisett would be a prohibitive favorite for re-election, although he has complained about the office's low pay. An embarrassing defeat and potential campaign debt could damage his post-O'Bannon potential, when he can be expected to challenge LG Joe Kernan and House Speaker John Gregg for the party's mantle. Democrats will point to the 1980 Bayh/Quayle race as a case in point of upsets occurring. But Lugar could whip out quote after quote from prominent Indiana Democrats lauding his conduct in office. He'll have a huge fundraising lead - $1.06 million at the year-end report. The key question seems to be whether Lugar could carry the one county he hasn't thus far - Lake. The best place for Modisett outside the AG's office and prior to O'Bannon's departure would be the Southern Indiana District Attorney's office, where he would be a welcome addition compared to the milquetoast Judy Stewart. David Johnson told the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* that he and Modisett will discuss the race. "This is something we'll all discuss and we'll all, collectively, I think, come to the right conclusion as to who the best candidate for the race might be," said Johnson, who has undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard and was an aide to Democratic senators on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1979 to 1983. **Status:** *SAFE LUGAR.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. **Democrat:** Joe Hogsett, New Castle Mayor Sherman Boles, Marc Carmichael. **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 Results:** McIntosh (R) 99,584, Boles (D) 62,426, Federle (L) 2,236. **2000 Forecast:** Let's pretend for just a minute that ol' Dave will decide to run for governor. Then what happens? We're hearing that former Secretary of State Joe Hogsett is giving such a scenario a long hard look. Boles and Carmicheal, the last two Democratic challengers, would also. On the Republican side we're hearing talk radio/TV host Mike Pence, who lost two races to Phil Sharp in 1988 and '90, Supt. of Public Instruction Suellen Reed, old warhorse Bill Frazier, and former Republican National Committeewoman Jean Ann Harcourt. We hear Harcourt might back her old friend Reed. Pence's radio show runs on five radio stations in the 2nd CD and he acts interested. A Hogsett matchup against either Pence or Reed would be an attractive race with huge national exposure potential. Most entertaining battle would be between happy warriors Pence and Hogsett. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

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