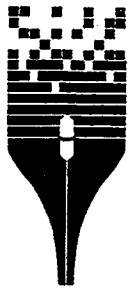
THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'I can't believe what I hear from Clinton; I have to turn to Bill Cohen or the Joint Chiefs of Staff to verify everything, and that's sad...'"

- U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, on dealing with the White House during the Kosovo crisis, to the Kokomo Tribune

Mayoral primary hijinks commence

Anderson, East Chicago, Indy heat up

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**, *in Indianapolis*

The threat of indictments, stolen direct mail, and assault TV ads over the past week have created a dramatic dynamic in intense mayoral primaries in Indianapolis, Anderson and East Chicago.

Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy found herself under assault by Republican primary opponent Bob Parker. He unveiled a flight of TV ads showing Gilroy popping up on an Indiana map running for secretary of state in 1994, lieutenant governor in 1996, flirting with the U.S. Senate and re-election in 1998, and now mayor of Indianapolis.

In Anderson, Democrat Mayor Mark Lawler came under fraud, bribery and theft allegations from Republican Madison County Prosecutor Rodney Cummings, the man who defeated Lawler's father in 1994.

And in East Chicago, Lake County Democratic Chairman Stephen Stiglich had a 6,200 pieces of direct mail disappear from the local Post Office. Stiglich is challenging incumbent Mayor Robert Pastrick in a rematch of their 1995 donnybrook.

Of the three primaries, the most profound statewide impact could come in Indianapolis, where Gilroy's worst fears are now being realized. Last winter, campaign director Mark Massa fretted about Parker doing to his candidate what Steve Forbes did to Bob Dole in the 1996 presidential primary: bloody up the frontrunner so badly that she can't recover in the fall. Parker's assault on Gilroy is bringing elation to the campaign of Democrat Bart Peterson, which will benefit without having to spend a cent.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE FEATURES

Lang cartoon: Lugar on Kosovo p. 2
Ticker Tape: Anti-gay bill dies p. 2
Congress Watch: War reaction p. 4
Columnists: Ashley, Follick p. 5
Horse Race: O'Bannon-McIntosh p.6-8

TICKER TAPE

The bill that would have prohibited gay adoptions has died. Supporters weren't able to find a suitable bill to amend the legislation to. "I really think that reasonable minds prevailed on this one," said Chris Gibson, legislative director for the Indiana Civil Liberties Union (Steve Hinnefeld, Bloomington Herald-Times). "The more legislators stand up to these hate-mongers, the more they will realize there aren't political costs to doing what is right." Said Eric Miller of Advance America, "The speaker of the House does not want it and the president pro tem of the Senate does not want it. If it gets to the floor, we would have a majority from all four caucuses." The

Continued on page 3

Mayoral, *from page 1*

Peterson was trailing Gilroy by a 41-19 percent margin in a Feb. 13-14 NUVO/TeleResearch Poll; and by 47-30 percent in a late March Star/News/WTHR poll. There has yet to be head-to-head numbers between Gilroy and Parker. That Gilroy is running under 50 percent should be alarming to her supporters, as well as Peterson's apparent 11-point rise without any advertising money spent.

In March, Parker speculated that Gilroy was in the process of "digging up dirt" on him. The Indianapolis Star/News had reported in February that Parker has a history of paying taxes late. Some Gilroy supporters are calling Parker a "slumlord." Parker sees his assault ads in a preemptive sense. It will be only a matter of hours before Gilroy has to respond in kind, and that will bring the GOP primary down into the mud - all to the advantage of Peterson.

Parker is clearly having an impact. Gilroy has reversed a stance that brought her stinging criticism - ducking joint appearances with Parker prior to the primary. She showed up at a westside forum Monday night and shared the stage with Parker and Peterson. While those present said Gilroy handled herself well, the campaign did little to publicize the event, preferring instead to build up great expectations for her speech before the Indianapolis Jaycees on Wednesday night. It contributes to the notion that Gilroy's handlers are not comfortable with her ad-libbing in an unorchestrated environment.

Even with the yoke of oblivion coming off the Gilroy campaign, the hard reality remains: numerous Marion County Republicans are shaking their heads at the early strategic blunders her campaign has made, ranging from her rebuke from Sheriff Jack Cottey, to her unwillingness to debate, few stands or straddling the issues, and poor relations with the news media.

There is a sense in many GOP circles similar to the dynamic that appeared around the 1996 gubernatorial campaign of Stephen Goldsmith when he lost Marion County by nearly 19,000 votes. They are wondering how they got stuck with such a flawed candidacy and there is an implied reluctance to get out and work. And they see Peterson as an extremely realistic threat to their dominance of City Hall since 1968.

East Chicago hijinks

The U.S. Postal Service has launched a criminal investigation into the disappearance of Stiglich's fliers. The brochures arrived on March 26 from California to the postal station at Kennedy and Chicago avenues. The Pronto Systems freight slip bears the signature of "J Lopez." Jose Lopez, supervisor of the East Chicago post office, refused an interview with *The Times*.

Stiglich is incensed. "We have been unable to obtain any satisfactory answers to the disappearance of the brochures or any remotely reasonable explanation as to how a shipment made to the post office could suddenly vanish into thin air" (Robin Biesen, *The Times*). Stiglich told the newspaper that when Lopez was originally contacted about the shipment, he denied that it ever arrived. Later Lopez said it had been shipped to the Gary post office.

"It smacks of illegal activity," said Stiglich.

In 1995, Pastrick's defeat of Stiglich was muddied by improper impoundment of ballots and their eventual destruction prior to a recount that never happened. When Stiglich took over the Lake County chairmanship from Pastrick, he quickly installed his allies on the County Election Board. With Chicago media prohibitively expensive, both Stiglich and Pastrick rely heavily on direct mail. The loss of this mailing could be potentially devastating to the challenger.

Democratic sources are telling HPR that Stiglich's challenge to Pastrick is placing his chairmanship in jeopardy.

Anderson fireworks

It is too early to tell if Mayor Mark Lawler is in great peril of winning a fourth term. The dramatic events of last week were triggered when Prosecutor Rodney Cummings sought a special prosecutor to investigate whether Lawler committed bribery, election fraud and theft during the 1995 mayoral campaign. Cummings said an Indiana State Police investigation turned up "substantial, credible evidence" of bribery, election fraud and theft (*Anderson Herald-Bulletin*).

"Rodney Cummings is behind this investigation," Lawler charged during a press conference. "He's behind some of those individuals who are involved in my political campaign both actively now and in the past and those are individuals who have continued to submit, in my opinion, bogus information to encourage investigations."

Cummings said that investigators are concentrating on a 1995 case where an Anderson man on an employment eligibility list was told to make a donation to Lawler's campaign. He refused and was not hired as a police officer. That same year, Cummings said that Lawler received a $500 check from an Anderson police officer; the check was endorsed by Lawler and deposited in his personal account.

The FBI is also currently investigating voter fraud and donations-for-jobs allegations within the Anderson PD.

The timing of the investigation conjured memories of the 1987 Fort Wayne mayoral race between Republican Paul Helmke and then-Mayor Winfield Moses. Several weeks before the general election, the Republican Allen County Prosecutor announced that Moses' brother was a suspect in a homicide case. He was never charged, but Moses' lead over Helmke plummeted overnight and led to his defeat. Two years before that election Moses had pled guilty to campaign law violations, resigned, but was re-elected by Democratic precinct officials 10 days later.

Anderson sources are telling HPR that Lawler's primary rivals - Kevin S. Smith and Norman Sanders - pose a significant threat. The *Herald-Bulletin* quoted Madison County Democratic Chairman Orville "Bud" Wood as saying, "This is all politics, coming right before an election. I've seen all this before. When someone steps on my toes I step right back and work harder.❖

TICKER TAPE

Herald-Times reported, "There was also a general understanding that Gov. Frank O'Bannon didn't want a ban on gay adoptions reaching his desk." Miller said the legislation will be back, as well as political consequences. "It will be an issue in our voter guides, from governor on down," he said. "Bottom line, though, no public backlash for lack of action on the subject, and tremendous grass-roots effort against the proposals."

The Indiana Historical Society has named 13 Hoosier Living Legends: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, David Letterman, Larry Bird, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Carl Erskine, Bob Knight, Ruth Lilly, John Mellencamp, Jane Pauley, Oscar Robertson, Herman B Wells, David Wolf and John Wooden.

A TeleResearch Poll reveals that 60 percent of those responding believe the IHSAA made a mistake and should return to the one-class basketball tournament. Sixteen percent said the multi-class tournament should be kept and eliminate the Tournament of Champions, and 24 percent said the tournament should consist of multi-class sectionals and regionals and then have a single class semi-state and finals. The survey conducted March 27-28 had 832 respondents

continued on page 4

TICKER TAPE

with a +/- error rate of 3.4 percent.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon warned the Statehouse press corps about fiddle-back spiders rampaging through the basement.

South Bend Councilman Roland Kelly gave this excuse for accepting the Dyngus Knighthood Order of Truth on behalf of State Rep. B. Patrick Bauer: "Because he's short, too" (Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune). Said Gov. O'Bannon at the 69th Dyngus Day observance at the West Side Democratic and Civic Club, "There's no place in the State of Indiana that does it like you do." Father Chrobot prayed, "Bless all our politicians. Give them wisdom, insight and courage."

Stanley E. Thomas has served 33 years as president of the West Side Democratic and Civic Club.

The legend of Nelson's Golden Glo Port-a-Pit Hall in Wakarusa is expanding. Todd Gongwer is beginning to franchise Nelson's Grill restaurants with the first going in South Bend. Others will be established in Fort Wayne and Merrillville (South Bend Tribune). The Port-a-Pit Hall is a well-known political banquet hall in Elkhart County and is famous for barbecue chicken.

continued on page 5

Quayle, Buyer reveal split GOP

Kosovo policy centers on whether to commit ground troops

INDIANAPOLIS- Indiana's congressional delegation continued to stake high profile positions on the war in Kosovo and Yugoslavia. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer returned from a European trip with Defense Secretary William Cohen and called for the immediate planning of a ground troop option in Kosovo.

"Wake up American. Europe's at war, and we're in it," Buyer said in Indianapolis (Scott Smith, *Kokomo Tribune*). "NATO has a legitimate moral right to enter and restore autonomy to Kosovo. (Milosevic) has herded these people like cattle. He emptied a city of 100,000. That's like taking all the people of Tippecanoe County, lining them up along I-65 and marching them to Indianapolis ahead of tanks."

His Republican colleague, U.S. Rep. John Hosettler, announced he was opposing the use of of U.S. forces. "We should not be expanding our role there." So did Dan Quayle, who said on NBC's Meet the Press, "We are a long way down the wrong road. There are no good options right now. Hopefully, hopefully, we can get a political settlement, we can get peace, the Albanian Kosovars can return to Kosovo."

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh told the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel that ground troops must be sent in if the United States and NATO are losing the war. "Now that we're in, we must win." He added that American troops should only be used as a last resort.

Both Buyer and Quayle were sharpley critical of President Clinton despite their divergent views on American involvement. Said Quayle, "Six different times - think of this - six different times, the Clinton administration threatened that they were going to bomb Milosevic, and six different times they moved the deadline. What do you think he's going to think? And taking ground troops off the table is wrong, confirming how many cruise missiles we may have is certainly wrong, and not anticipating what was going to happen once the bombing started was wrong."

CONGRESS WATCH

Buyer blames much of the hestitation on behalf of Republicans due to President Clinton's "lack of credibility."

"My advice to my Republican colleagues is to get over it," Buyer said. "I know more about Bill Clinton than I ever wanted to know - I prosecuted him. But I got over it. Even now, I can't believe what I hear from (Clinton); I have to turn to Bill Cohen or the Joint Chiefs of Staff to verify everything, and that's sad."

Buyer said that members of Congress on the trip took the attitude of "if we're in this, we're in it to win it, and if we're not, then get out."

Quayle appeared to take the heaviest early knocks over Kosovo, but only because he did not appear to meet the expectations of what he promised to be: the GOP's top foreign policy candidate. The *Washington Post's* Dan Balz described it this way: "Former Vice President Dan Quayle promised to make foreign policy a central issue of the presidential campaign, but he has been far less visible than (Sen. John) McCain and his policy views less clear-cut."

A Washington Post/ABC Poll last weekend showed that 55 percent of Americans favor ground troops and 41 percent were against. ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Richard Cohen, *Washington Post* - At a White House meeting held last month before the start of the bombing campaign, (Sen.) Nickles offered one of the great lock-the-barn-after-the-horses-are-gone statements of all time. "I don't think we should begin bombing unless and until the Serbs really begin a very significant massacre against the people of Kosovo." Nickles's statement, as charming an example of heartland realpolitik as you're likely to ever hear, certainly caught the ear of the White House. It remains more representative of congressional sentiment than, say, the hawkish views of Sens.Richard Lugar and John McCain. ❖

Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star* - O'Bannon, though, is nice. Nice to a fault? "Steve Goldsmith thought that," said Tom New. "Everyone thinks Frank O'Bannon is this nice guy, and he is. He's a great guy. But do not underestimate Frank O'Bannon. He's able to be tough and make tough decisions. When people underestimate his ability to take the tough road, that's when they're usually left in the dust." Right now, with his education issue lying in the dust at the Indiana General Assembly and with the end game of the budget on the line, O'Bannon needs to leave his problem behind him in the dust. Soon . ❖

Joe Follick, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* - It starts in kindergarten, when the classroom giggles because a wisenheimer makes a farting sound with his armpit. It continues in junior high, when students chortle like Beavis and Butthead at the beleaguered teacher's sex education lecture. Sophomoric behavior betraying a puritan fear of sexuality is a hallmark of American childhood, and not a dangerous thing — if it ends before adulthood. But it doesn't. Adults in America may have left the high school hallways, but we still only talk about sex in one of two ways: pejorative, (sluts, kinky, gay, etc.) or in jokes, (as we witness ad nauseum, ad infinitum every night on TV at 11:35 p.m. and every morning on the radio via the usual chucklehead suspects, Bob and Tom and Howard Stern). So it should shock us very little that Viagra last year became a one-word giggle-getter for tired comics, joining "Buttafuoco" in the David Letterman Hall of Fame. But we should be shocked that the cartoonish image of Viagra could end up costing Hoosiers millions of dollars simply because the idea of sex makes our state Legislature squirm. The bottom line is that Viagra means sex to most legislators, and sex is a topic proper men and women just don't discuss in the 1950s atmosphere that dominates our state.❖

Bob Ashley, *Syndicated* - Ask the leader of any legislative body and he or she likely will tell you they'd rather lead a small majority. Large numbers in a majority caucus make for major management problems because everyone wants something. And worse, they think they deserve it. When the numbers are small, it is easier to cut the deals needed to get the legislative job done. And there is more likelihood that the caucus will hold together on important policy votes. The same holds true with the state budget. For legislators it is easier to figure out what to do about a small revenue surplus - or even a looming deficit - compared to a large surplus, because it is easier to say the word "no" to the competing interests that each want a slice of the pie. Indiana's pending record budget surplus - $2.7 billion within the next 27 months - is causing major problems in the General Assembly. A developing budget stalemate has led to persistent talk in the Statehouse hallways about a special session after adjournment at the end of April. ❖

TICKER TAPE

Indiana State Troopers have expressed shock that so many of their own are dying in the line of duty. "Far too often we've been here," said Supt. Melvin Carraway at the funeral of Trooper Cory Elson, who was killed by a Decatur man with a modified SKS automatic assault rifle. "We stand on this very narrow path between anarchy and freedom. We stand as a buffer for that, and we give our lives for that" (Michelle Klampe, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel). Mark Lichtenberger said he killed the trooper because he was out to get the next police officer who stopped him. Said Trooper Rick Hewitt of Decatur County, "No traffic stop is routine. This just makes you think about that."

The U.S. Air Force will name a new B-2 bomber the "Spirit of Indiana" later this spring, Sen. Richard Lugar announced. The Spirit of Indiana will be the 20th of 21 stealth bombers, will be dedicated in late May and assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman AFB in Missouri.

The South Bend Tribune reports that only 15 students will complete building trades programs this spring in the South Bend School Corp. and St. Joseph's High School. Normally there would have been about 50 students enrolled. The

continued on page 6

TICKER TAPE

Tribune reported that a shortage of building trades employees have prompted work on the new Liberty Elementary School in Mishawaka to fall behind due to a shortage of masons and iron workers.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno was in Indianapolis last week to announce that the city is one of five participating in a Justice Department pilot program to develop a new model for comprehensive, problem-solving approaches to reduce significant local crime problems. Each city is to focus on a different problem, with Indianapolis's emphasis on homicides. The city is on course to set a fifth homicide record in the last six years.

U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer met with Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji in Washington last week (Colwell, South Bend Tribune). Roemer described the meeting as "helpful" and added, "We do not need to isolate the Chinese." He said such isolation would only result in economic and military problems for the United States in the future.

U.S. Rep. Baron Hill warned senior citizens in Jeffersonville that privatizing Social Security would be dangerous. "I don't think privatizing Social Security is a good idea," Hill said. "There will be some winners that will have success and a

Indiana Racing Form

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

Anderson Mayoral: Republican: Lani Czarniecki, Paul McClish. **Democrat:** Mayor Mark Lawler, Kevin C. Smith, Norman Sanders. **1995 Results:** Lawler (D) 9,411, Graham (R) 8,817. **1999 Forecast:** After a week's worth of fireworks, this race has destabilized. Lawler and/or his administration is facing FBI and State Police probes as well as a special prosecutor. But organizational Democrats seem energized by the tactics of Madison County Prosecutor Rodney Cummings against Lawler. Cummings defeated Lawler's father for prosecutor in 1994. As one local observer told HPR, "As they say in the mob, some things are professional and some things are personal. This is personal." Lawler appears to have emerged with the Democratic organization uniting behind him. "Most people understand it's a political move," said Martha Carmichael, the former Democratic vice chair (*Herald-Bulletin*). At a Saturday night roast, most of the 200 Democrats were backing Lawler. The mayor himself even made light of the scandal. As they roasted long-time Democratic stalwart Tom Ashley, Lawler said, "He's always telling me, 'You need to get a little publicity, you need to get your name in the paper.' Well, this week, Tom, I did. Are you happy?" Pressing Lawler in the Democratic primary are Kevin Smith, a 10-year veteran of the Madison County Council, and Norm Sanders, who lost a primary race to Lawler four years ago. On the Republican side, Czarniecki is a commercial developer running for office the first time and has the Madison County GOP's backing. McClish ran for the Elwood City Council earlier this decade. While Lawler is favored to emerge from the primary at this point, the fall could be a real battle. He won by only 600 votes four years ago to become the city's first three-term mayor. Local sources say there may be other legal problems emerging for the mayor soon. **Status:** *LEANS LAWLER.*

HORSE RACE

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:** Candidates debate jobs at a town meeting at the University of Evansville where they hear senior student Mike Leuthner say, "I'm counting the days until I can leave Evansville" (Courier & Press). Borries stressed the need to counter "brain drain." Riecken said she would support a new double ice rink for the city which would also serve as a multi-purpose center. **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 is the man to beat here. *Journal Gazette* speculates on what kind of house-cleaning will occur if Buskirk doesn't win. Speculation is that Buskirk would keep many Helmke appointees on. Squadrito says he will not commit a "slash and burn" should he win. **Status:** *Leans Squadrito.*

Hammond Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Duane Dedelow. **Democrat:** Lake County Commissioner Fran DuPey, Tom Philpot and Repay. **1995 Results:** Dedelow (R) 11,099, Philpot (D) 10,578. **1999 Forecast:** Watch for Commissioner DuPey to emerge from a fairly intense Democratic primary. Philpot is strong, as his near upset of Dedelow four years ago indicates. Dedelow is in fairly good shape, particularly benefitting from the riverboat casino money that has spilled into his coffers. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

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:** Key moments will occur this week when Gilroy responds to Parker's negative ads and makes her long-anticipated Jaycees speech. People will be looking for Gilroy to enunciate stances on vital issues and get out of the straddling mode. The campaign

seems to be loosening up some. Her weekly e-mail now includes a schedule and announces a joint appearance with opponents April 20 on the far east side. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

Kendallville Mayoral: Republican: Wilma Suzanne Handshoe, Councilman Bradley Kline, Jeff H. Smith. **Democrat:** Mayor Larry McGahen. **1995 Results:** McGahan (D) 1,162, Smith (R) 1,065. **1999 Forecast:** This is a potential rematch in the making if Smith can win the Republican nomination. He lost to McGahen by only 98 votes in 1995. Smith said at a community forum of his first term, "I was a little too headstrong, a little too gung-ho" (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Smith said he was able to "grow a little bit" after he left the mayoral office to run the Olympia Sweets Shop. Kline, a minister, said of his election chances, "If it is His will, I will succeed. If it is not, I will fail." Handshoe is a former U.S. Marine and holds a Purdue degree in organizational leadership. She said, "I don't think we're focused on the future." **Status:** *TOSS-UP.*

Noblesville Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Dennis Redick, Mary Sue Rowland. **Democrat:** Open. **1999 Forecast:** This is a rematch between a former two-term mayor and the man who upset her four years ago by less than 100 votes. Redick enjoys much of the support of the GOP organization, including State Sen. Luke Kenley. Winning the Republican primary is tantamount to victory in the fall. **Status:** *LEANS REDICK.*

South Bend Mayoral: Republican: Steve Bradley, Melvin Townsend. **Democrat:** Mayor Steve Leucke, Portage Township Assessor John Voorde, Kevin C. Horton, Zbigniew "Ziggy" Borowski. **1995 Results:** Kernan (D) 14,309, Waite (R) 3,106. **1999 Forecast:** Voorde has emerged as the prime opponent for Leucke. Democratic Party sources tell HPR that recent tracking had Leucke with a double-digit lead over Voorde but that the race could tighten up. A controversy is swirling over the South Bend School Corp. and whether Supt. Virginia Calvin should be retained. Horton has called for Calvin to resign; Leucke and Voorde have urged the board to make a decision soon, but have not stated a preference. Voorde has suggested that Adams High School be sold to Indiana University as he questioned South Bend's need for five high public high schools. Leucke told the *South Bend Tribune*, "Don't close Adams High School.". **Status:** *LEANS 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:** Gov. O'Bannon enters a critical four-week stretch of his governorship. His full-day kindergarten and community college initiatives are on shaky ground in the legislature. IU and Purdue resistence to the CC initiative was predictable, but the economic development community has not climbed aboard as anticipated. O'Bannon may not get FDK past Borst and the Senate. Republicans in the Senate have already given O'Bannon one huge chip when they helped to procedurally kill anti-gay adoption legislation. The governor needs to emerge from the General Assembly with at least one major victory where he can highlight his "leadership" in post-legislature barnstorming. Legislative Republicans, yearning to bloody up the governor and draw McIntosh into the race, emotionally long for a GOP return to the top job and will move to deny O'Bannon.

That's why a special session is a real probability. That produces a huge stare-down where the eyes could get bone dry before someone blinks. O'Bannon has also been nicked up over Muscatatuck Developmental Center and the $65 million Teachers Pension Fund fiasco and will have to make a crucial decision on the I-69 Evansville-to-Indy highway. "Right now all fingers point to Gov. O'Bannon," said one I-69 supporter. Neither Muscatatuck nor the pension problem are sexy issues that will play well before scandal-fatigued voters. But if they become part of a series of nicks, they could steal the glow from this administration.

Those nicks may have supplied enough blood in the water to draw in McIntosh. The Muncie congressman was doing his own ed-flex barnstorming tour of Evansville, Indianapolis and Munster - all locations well out of his district. He received good press in all locations. By the time he turned up back in his district Tuesday before the Anderson Rotary, McIntosh was

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

secure retirement, but that also means there will be losers. If you get bad financial advice or have bad luck then you're not going to have a secure retirement."

U.S. Rep. Julia Carson signed on to a nationwide on-line petition to House Speaker Dennis Hastert urging him to quickly pass a Patients' Bill of Rights legislation. The on-line petition can be accessed at: www.familiesusa.org/pbr/index.html

A bill that would create special license plates for anti-abortion groups will be eligible for passage in the Indiana House (Mike Smith, Associated Press). The House voted 67-26 against an amendment that would have removed the Indiana Child Protection Trust license plates from Senate Bill 31. "This is a fetus protection trust license plate, not a child protection license plate," said Dinah Farrington of Planned Parenthood of Central and Southern Indiana. "There is certainly the implication that the state is sanctioning it, and perception is reality." State Rep. Gary Cook, D-Plymouth, said opponents have only themselves to blame "because they didn't read the bill." Freshman State Rep. Duane Cheney, D-Portage, wrote the amendment that would have stripped the plate from the

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

bill. "It is entirely different than the spirit of the license plate program," said Cheney (Mike Chambers, Evansville Courier & Press). "That's what bumper stickers are for."

Fort Wayne Councilman Cletus Edmonds, 53, died of a heart attack on April 12. The Democrat had served on the council since 1989.

INDOT will begin a high-tech program for U.S. 31 at Kokomo. It will include the installation of message signs, a traffic advisory radio station, and computer models to tweak traffic signal cycles.

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HORSE RACE

described by *Herald-Bulletin* reporter Ken de la Bastide as "sounding like a potential candidate for governor rather than a candidate for re-election." McIntosh talked about a 10-percent state tax cut and improving Indiana schools and proposed creating a "research triangle between Bloomington, Lafayette and Muncie to attract industry." Insiders say the one powerful strike against a McIntosh gubernatorial run is wife Ruthie, who is against it. Of course, the history of politics is littered with shattered preferences of spouses. If O'Bannon stumbles in the next month, McIntosh may well decide to take yet another risk or face a draft movement. Price and Witwer were quiet this week. **Status:** *Leans Democratic.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** John Hamilton, State Sen. Lindel Hume. **Libertarian:** Paul Hager. **Geography:** Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Forecast:** State Sen. Lindel Hume of Princeton is now weighing the race, telling the *Evansville Courier & Press* that he is giving it "very strong consideration." Hume will attend a candidate's forum in Vincennes on April 17 but said he won't make a final decision until after the Indiana General Assembly dismisses. Hume served in the Indiana House from 1974 to 1982, when he moved over to the Senate. Hume said, "I think the right candidate is one who has a conservative Democratic philosphy." He said two issues - gun control and abortion - have driven off Democatic voters. Hume is pro-life and has been supported by the pro-gun Indiana Sportsman's Alliance. Horse Race views Hume as an extremely viable candidate that could mitigate the ideological contrast between a Democrat and Hostettler. That could position the Democrat to play better in that 5,000 vote or less margin of independent and moderate party voters. 9th CD Chair Anthony Long believes as many as four candidates may enter the primary. State Reps. Russ Stilwell and Dave Crooks have ruled it out. Hamilton has conferrred with the Democratic hierarchy and understands both the drawbacks and pluses from his tenure as head of IDEM. Hamilton believes his Evansville roots (father was a United Methodist minister there) give him proper credentials. HPR sources say Evansville labor has a "tepid" view of a Hamilton candidacy. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

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