THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'There's nothing wrong with Indiana that can't be fixed with what's right about Indiana....'

- Indiana Democratic Chairman Robin Winston to the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association

Bradley support swells with Dems

Hoosiers see Gore as a ticket drag

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

FRENCH LICK - A key question in Democratic circles throughout this year has been, "Is this a Gore state or a Bradley state?"

The assumption - with former Indiana Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew now serving as Democratic National chairman - was that Indiana was going to be marked up in Vice President Al Gore's column. That illusion was further perpetrated by the endorsement of Gore by Gov. Frank O'Bannon, Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan and Attorney General Jeff Modisett in late July.

But when the annual Indiana Democratic Editorial Association convention met at the sprawling French Lick Springs Resort last weekend, the Gore facade appeared to be in a rapid state of deterioration.

Of the two presidential candidates, only former Sen. Bill Bradley maintained any sort of formal presence as a table in the lobby featured a television monitor with a taped presentation, stickers and buttons. Mike Pannos, who heads up the Gore Indiana organization did not attend, but Gore allies insisted he was in the process of developing Gore support in the key big counties - Lake, St. Joseph, Marion and Vanderburgh.

As the weekend progressed, more and more influential Democrats were seen sporting Bradley gear. Following the formal addresses by O'Bannon, Kernan and Modisett during the Saturday sessions, the glaring omission was any audible support for Gore.

By late Saturday night, key congressional level party

Continued on page 2

INSIDE FEATURES

Ticker Tape: Reed ready to run p. 2
Cook, Rothenberg join HPR Forums p. 3
Hogsett & DCCC 2nd CD poll p. 4
Columnists: Follick, Kondracke p. 6
Horse Race: New Albany, Evansvill races will be barn burners p. 6-8

We're in Our Sixth Year!

TICKER TAPE

Supt. of Public Instruction Suellen Reed is preparing to seek renomination and has a message in light of reports that Carol D'Amico will challenge her for the GOP nod: "Suellen Reed is the top statewide Republican vote-getter in the '90s," said spokesman Terry Spradlin last Friday evening. "We are confident she will be renominated in June and re-elected in November." Spradlin added, "We're getting a lot of events scheduled for the rest of the year. We're engaged and ready to go and we'll be very successful."

State Rep. Dennis Kruse will introduce a bill calling for a ban on the teaching of evolution in Indiana's public

Continued on page 3

Gore, *from page 1*

officials were openly expressing concerns about the electability of Al Gore and their fears that he would be a drag on the 2000 ticket. "He's our version of Bob Dole," groaned one congressional district vice chairman.

Numerous Indiana legislators - particularly from the House - expressed the ticket-drag fears that Gore represents. They noted that Dole and the shrill Newt Gingrich escapades in a national context hurt Indiana Republicans and helped create the stunning 53-47 seat House takeover.

They pointed out that House Speaker John Gregg was conspicuously absent from the Gore endorsement. Several Democratic legislators expressed fear that the party's hard-fought 53-47 advantage will come under serious assault in 2000 with what they portend will be Texas Gov. George W. Bush and U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar at the top of the Republican ticket, along with a credible gubernatorial challenger in U.S. Rep. David McIntosh.

One influential, senior and jovial legislative Democrat told HPR, "I have talked to literally all our caucus members and most aren't excited about Al Gore. Here in Indiana, Democrats are a little embarrassed about the president and they don't know what to make of Al Gore. They are worried about Dick Lugar running, Al Gore leading the charge and a well-funded McIntosh running for governor."

Kyoto concerns

From an issues standpoint, they point out that Gore's activist environmentalist collides with key Democratic constituencies in party strongholds statewide - particularly the coal region of Southwestern Indiana and the steel belt in Northwest Indiana. An early McIntosh campaign theme is that the Kyoto Accords supported by Gore could eliminate tens of thousands of Hoosier manufacturing jobs, a stance that has had many Democrats nodding their heads in agreement.

But the deeper-running sentiment last weekend was the simple notion that Gore simply can't win. Late Saturday morning, GarinHartYang Research Group pollster Fred Yang presented what he called "not good news at the presidential level." A late July survey he took for

Cook, Rothenberg to join HPR symposiums

Notable Washington, D.C., political analysts Charlie Cook and Stuart Rothenberg will be featured panelists on the first *Howey Political Report* Pre-Elex Symposiums that will take place in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend and Evansville in October.

Baker & Daniels Law Offices has signed on to become the first statewide sponsor of the HPR Pre-Elex symposiums. Baker & Daniels has law offices in South Bend, Fort Wayne, Elkhart, Indianapolis, Washington and Qingdao, China.

"We are excited about our new relationship with Baker & Daniels in providing a statewide series of public affairs forums designed to stimulate interest and encourage participation in the electoral process," said HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey. "Too often events of this stature happen only in Indianapolis. HPR and Baker & Daniels understand there is an entire state with a vigorous political process and we will be there during this and upcoming election years to feel the local pulse and provide a first-class event in each of these vital markets."

Cook publishes *The Cook Political Report*, Rothenberg publishes the *Rothenberg Political Report* in Washington and both appear often on CNN. They will appear along with HPR Washington correspondent Mark Schoeff Jr. in a video format commenting exclusively on Indiana congressional, gubernatorial and presidential races.

TeleResearch will provide late polling data from hot mayoral races in Indianapolis, Evansville, Fort Wayne and South Bend for each symposium.

HPR will announce dates, additional panelists and attendance information within the next week.❖

NBC News and *Wall Street Journal* showed Bush leading Gore by a 50-37 percent margin nationally. Among independents, Bush led Gore by a 49-20 percent margin. "The good news there is that more than half haven't decided to vote for Bush."

Yang cautioned that back in the summer of 1988 George Herbert Walker Bush trailed Mike Dukakis by nearly 20 percent. "It's too early to tell right now," Yang said.

Gore's frosty head-to-head numbers with the Texas governor clearly created indigestion in the party faithful. But it wasn't so much Gore's liabilities as the perceived attractiveness of Bradley, an NBA basketball star that was raised in the Midwest. Many Democrats professed a personal admiration for Al Gore as a fine man, but felt that he would be the one paying for the sins of the Clinton administration. By nominating Bradley, many felt that would wipe the slate clean of the Clintonian transgressions.

While the outward signs of Bradley support multiplied, there was an element of resignation when recognition of the historical aspects were verbalized. It will be virtually impossible to stop the nomination of a sitting vice president, thus denying Indiana's late May primary the first real drama since RFK/McCarthy in 1968.

Some Democrats expressed agitation with Bradley. Said former Marion County Democratic Chairman Kip Tew, "When he retired from the Senate he said the Democratic Party was broken. That was a tough thing to explain to my precinct people. I want to know why he felt the party was broken." ❖

TICKER TAPE

schools. Kruse said he was following the lead of the Kansas Board of Education which has removed evolution from state science teaching guidelines.

Former Vice President Dan Quayle returned to his hometown of Huntington last week. The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette reported it this way: "If poor poll performance has Dan Quayle concerned about his chances of winning the Republican nomination for president, he didn't show it Thursday. Quayle was there for the fifth annual Dan Quayle Center and Museum Golf Classic." The newspaper reported that Quayle "rode around in a golf cart and traded wisecracks with supporters." Quayle said that with former New Hampshire Gov. John Sununu in his camp, he expects to do well in the nation's first primary. "There's optimism and enthusiasm whever I go," Quayle said. "Come up to New Hampshire and gauge the tremend us amount of support up there." The golf outing raised nearly $70,000, about half of the center's 2000 budget.

Gary Mayor Scott King has accused firearms dealers and manufacturers of flooding the Steel City with handguns as he filed a lawsuit in Lake County Superior Court against 14 of the nation's

continued on page 4

TICKER TAPE

largest gun dealers, a gun trade group, and six area dealers. "It's like suing a liquor manufacturer or brewery because some underage kid was able to get an adult to buy beer for them," said Doug Painter, executive director of the National Shooting Sports Foundation in reaction to King's suit. Word is that the City of Indianapolis will likely join other major U.S. cities in filing suits against gun makers.

Mayor King decried the decision of the Post-Tribune to move its editorial and advertising operations to Merrillville. The Post-Tribune cited the need for nearby restaurants as the reason for the move. It is the second time that a major Region newspaper has moved from its original city. The Times of Northwest Indiana used to be located in Hammond before it relocated to Munster in the 1980s.

Rains that fell on parts of Indiana last week were just in time to help the soybean crop, but it did little to help the dented corn crop. The South Bend Tribune reported that most of the Michiana corn crop has entered the dent stage, which means the kernels become dry and dimpled. Farmers are comparing the corn crop this year to that of 1988 when a severe drought lasted through July and kept

continued on page 5

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Joe Hogsett (apparently) slept here in Fench Lick

FRENCH LICK - In an emotional ceremony last Friday night, Indiana Democrats dedicated a suite at the French Lick Springs Resort to Larry Allyn and Mary Lou Conrad. A beautiful brass plaque had the names of the former Indiana secretary of state and his wife, who died unexpectedly last spring. The room had been the scene of some old-fashioned political brokering involving Conrad, Frank O'Bannon and Evan Bayh.

Somewhere else in the sprawling hotel was another room that, some day, might have have a sign that reads, "Joe Hogsett slept here." Virtually no one saw Hogsett. They were looking for Hogsett's appearance at IDEA as a signal that he would run for the open 2nd CD. But credible sources said Hogsett arrived Friday, played a round of golf, and then took off Saturday. There would be no reunion of Hogsett and Evan Bayh on the dance floor singing "Rocky Mount, Tennessee" this year.

While Hogsett is said to be dealing with his problems from organized labor upset with his anti-labor duties at Bingham Welsh Summers, one influential 2nd CD leader told HPR, "Joe Hogsett has to go or hang up his political career. There is an open seat for him and he has a numerical edge. It's either now or he can run against Lugar in six years."

The "numbers" were a GarinHart-Yang Research Group survey (Aug. 11-12, 405 likely, +/- 5 percent) that revealed pos/neg and name ID:

Hogsett	22	9	62
Pence	17	6	44
Mellinger	16	3	32
Adams	11	4	28
Lanane	8	2	23
Linder	10	1	23
T. Liggett	6	3	21

Mellinger and Adams have apparently decided not to run. The survey, paid for by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, didn't include long-time GOP stalwart Bill Frazier, who apparently will run, and McIntosh aide Luke Messer, who is the most recent addition to the field.

Of the major candidates in the field, Hogsett led in the "appeal" category (great deal, fair amount, just some) with a 14/35/44 mark, compared to 18/29/44 for Linder, 13/20/58 for Pence, 6/25/58 for Lanane and 4/20/64 for Liggett.

The survey noted that 2nd CD voters said they would prefer a Republican over a Democrat by a 35-30 percent margin. It continued, "While a Republican candidate starts off this election with a slight advantage, the encouraging news for Democrats is that voters' issue agenda favors them.

The survey revealed that the top-rated issues were Social Security and Medicare (41 percent), moral values (32), education (30), economy and jobs (23), crime and drugs (23) and taxes (20).

HPR Handicapping: At this point, the Democrats would prefer to run with Hogsett because of his high name ID. One source said that a couple of calls from Sen. Evan Bayh could help calm his labor problems. Lanane appears to be the option if Hogsett refuses to go. Troy Liggett became the first Democrat to officially announce on Tuesday. Liggett, 34, is a senior fiscal analyst for the Indiana House Democratic caucus and has worked with U.S. Reps. Phil Sharp and Jill Long. The Democrats would prefer to run against Linder or, better yet, Frazier, but are expecting Pence to emerge.

On the Republican side, Pence has clearly emerged as the front-runner, but he won't make it official until after Dec. 31 so that he can keep his radio and TV shows. ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Robert Hammerle, *Indianapolis Star* - Don't we want candidates with life experience who occasionally pushed the envelope, as opposed to some bubble boy who claims never to have strayed from the straight and narrow? On the other hand, if a candidate has occasionally walked on the wild side, how does he deal with that? Does he honestly confront his past and trust to the collective wisdom of the voting public, or does he do the old political two-step and respond with evasive answers and double talk? This problem is compounded by all the political hoopla surrounding our so-called war on drugs. Like the miserable sink hole we created in Vietnam, we have seemingly invested too much political capital and resources, both human and financial, to admit failure. As a result, we are struck with the contradiction between our rhetoric of no forgiveness and no tolerance for kids using drugs, and adults like Bush seeking both. If we are to forgive Bush what about extending that same forgiveness to those young people who are being imprisoned by the thousands today for conduct similar to what Bush may have practiced yesterday? ❖

Morton Kondracke, *Roll Call* - After seven months of maneuvering, polls indicate that neither Republicans nor Democrats have gained a decisive political advantage looking toward the 2000 elections. Republicans have been touting last week's Wirthlin survey showing 68 percent public approval of the GOP tax cut, but every other poll suggests a preference for using the budget surplus for education, Social Security or paying down the national debt. The bottom line on the generic question and Congressional approval is that the public is about evenly divided between the parties. That is, Republicans have climbed out of their impeachment hole, but no one has yet gained the upper hand. ❖

Joe Follick, *Thomson Indiana* - It was about halfway through the Follick family's meatloaf dinner when my seven-year-old son told us about his "Code Red" that day at school. I stopped in mid-chew and mentally ran down the possible meanings of "Code Red." As I began to reassure myself that it must be a phrase from a video game, he set me straight: His second-grade class was in the gym when the "Code Red" warning sounded. The kids, still sweating from their games, ran into a nearby classroom and were told to stay quiet while the teacher locked the door and killed the lights. In dozens of rooms in the school, kids as young as five were cowering beneath desks and in closets, urged to hush by a whispering teacher. An all-clear sounded, signaling the "Code Red" was just make-believe and elementary school life resumed. I put down my glass of milk and stared at him for signs of teasing. Surely he was kidding. "It's so bad people can't get in and steal kids or hurt them," he told me matter-of-factly, taking one last bite before asking if he could go play in his room by himself for awhile. I gave him a quick hug and let him go. Maybe the "Code Red" hadn't affected him but it scared the hell out of me. Unlike my boy, I knew that "Code Red" was a ghost of madness past, present and future. For most of us, Columbine and its dark set of cousins existed only on TV screens and newspapers. Though we shared in the national obsession of pondering grief, there was sufficient distance to allow us sleep at night. But with the start of the first post-Columbine school year, the fear has come to places once thought of as sanctuary.❖

TICKER TAPE

yields depressed. "As far as the crops go, I think the rain has made all that it's going to make," said Merle Sarber, a grain merchandiser with the Cargill Elevator in Bremen. "That will just about finish us up."

A U.S. magistrate has recommended that the City of Elkhart move its Ten Commandments monument off the front lawn at City Hall (South Bend Tribune). Magistrate Theresa L. Springmann sided with the Indiana Civil Liberties Union and two Elkhart residents who sued in May 1998. "The court simply does not believe that a reasonable observer would believe that the Ten Commandments mounment was meant to be part of a larger educational array which incorporates displays wich are inside and not even visible while viewing the monument," Springmann wrote in a 23-page ruling. Mayor James Perron said he would appeal the ruling. "The city believes that its position that the Ten Commandments monument remain in its current place is on solid legal standing." Last March, Perron said he would appeal the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary. The monument was installed in 1958 as a gift from the Fraternal Order of Eagles to "provide moral guidance." Republican Mayoral candidate David

continued on page 6

TICKER TAPE

Miller, a city councilman, agreed with Perron. "It is regrettable anyone feels there is no place for the Ten Commandments," he said.

East Chicago officials escaped by hours criminal charges and state sanctions for not complying with Indiana lobbying regulations (Daniel Yovich, The Times). Records show the city ignored nine written requests for lobbying financial records. Mayor Robert Pastrick said the confusion occurred when the city's long-time controller, Jim Knight, died in May 1998. Pastrick said he knew nothing of the requests that show that State Rep. Jesse Villalpando, D-Griffith, earned about $30,000 from the city. The city hired the Indianapolis law firm of Bingham Summers Welsh and Spilman to file a motion of continuance for a Thursday hearing. Attorney William D. Moreau Jr. said that the state requests had "inadvertantly been ignored." Said Mayor Pastrick, "I knew nothing whatsoever about this."

Michigan City Schools Supt. Linda Anast is under fire for "inadvertantly" using her school credit card at the Majestic Star Casino in Gary (Michigan City News-Dispatch). Anast said she returned the $215.99 charged to the school district's business manager on May 25, the day following

Indiana Racing Form

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

TRENDLINE: Mike Harmless the former Indiana Democratic executive director now heading up the party's coordinated mayor's campaign told the party faithful in French Lick that they will pick up between six and 10 mayoralships in November. If that is the case, that would move the Democrats from the current 64 into the 70-75 range. If that occurs and the Democrats pick off the big one - Indianapolis - the stage could be set for the Democrats to begin the kind of era of dominance that Indiana Republicans enjoyed between 1968-88. As of this writing, it looks as if the most intense battles will occur in Indy, Evansville and New Albany.

Evansville Mayoral: **Republican:** County Councilman Russell Lloyd Jr.. **Democrat:** Rick Borries. **1995 Results:** McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. **1999 Forecast:** We are detecting a potential new dynamic in the race surrounding police. The public is up in arms over the Indiana State Police trooper who struck and killed a man driving to work. The squad car was traveling at more than 90 mph without its flashing lights on. Evansville talk radio has been peppered with angry callers about this incident in record numbers. While this has nothing to do with city government, several sources tell us that there is a great deal of pent up energy about the state of city police affairs. Neither Lloyd nor Borries have touched much on law enforcement issues thus far. But one long-time observer told us, "The first candidate that gets out in front of police department reform issues will probably win the election." Sources indicate internal polling shows this race a true tossup. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

HORSE RACE

Fort Wayne Mayoral: **Republican:** Linda Buskirk. **Democrat:** Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Forecast:** There's a lot of second guessing going on about Richard's decision to attack Mayor Paul Helmke as a pseudo-incumbent. Richard had gone on the offensive last week saying Helmke was behind in filling FWPD positions and was steering big money to his father's law firm. Democrats we've talked to question the wisdom of taking Paul and Walter Helmke on. Fort Wayne for years has neatly divided the city, county and school law work among the big three or four law firms. Democrats have been getting their slice of the pie. Our sense at this point is that Richard has a lot of catching up to do. A big $500 a plate fundraiser with Sen. Bayh will help on the money front. Whether he can find the decisive fall issue to derail Buskirk remains to be seen. As with her big primary win over Squadrito, Buskirk is expected to do well with neighborhood associations and will fully use the powerful city Helmke machine. **General Status:** *Leans Buskirk.*

Indianapolis Mayoral: **Republican:** Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy. **Democrat:** Bart Peterson. **Our Party:** Rev. John Gibson. **Libertarian:** Andrew Horning. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Forecast:** Adventures from Rooneyland invade the mayoral race. Pat Rooney has unleashed a TV ad campaign castigating both Gilroy and Peterson TV ads on education. Rooney says the ads are "hogwash" because the mayor can't do anything about the education issues the ads espouse. Republicans are nervously awaiting a break in the Cottey-Sweezy showdown. Sweezy summoned a *Star* reporter at the McIntosh announcement at the Statehouse. One scenario had Sweezy coming on with a job at IUPUI and the Bulen Symposium, which would provide a set of interesting ironies. Gilroy just wants the power struggle over the GOP chairmanship question to go away until after November. If Gilroy were to win, would she be in a position to assert herself and annoint her own chair? Would it be the ambitious Sheriff Cottey? Gilroy will attend Cottey's birthday bash this week so we think there are deals in the works. On the Democratic side, the Peterson team appears to be in intense talks with the machine of U.S. Rep. Julia Carson

to turn on the vote. Word is that Carson will be looking for a deal. At the present, the Carson machine is not fully integrated into a GOTV. So this election appears to be coming down to which machine will work at its fullest capacity. Will the Carsonites be motivated by scores of new jobs opening up at City Hall if there is a flush of the GOP? Will the Republican precinct folks at City Hall who survived the Goldsmith era turn it up? Are any of them confused by the Cottey/Sweezy showdown? Another key unanswered question is how damning will the State Board of Accounts report that is headed to Attorney General Modisett be? Word in both camps is that it is a "mixed bag." The advantage for Peterson might be that it was a look at two slivers of the Goldsmith regime. If there is trouble there, a case might be made that the regime is riddled. We'll have to wait and see. At this point, Gilroy has had some real knuckleballs thrown her way - by Republicans no less. NUVO casts it like this: "With friends like these...." Sources confirm GOP numbers that have Gilroy 5 or 6 points up. Some Democrats are questioning whether Peterson has enough fire in the belly to pull off what would be an epic victory. Peterson seems to be ceding away natural opportunities to hit at Gilroy/Goldsmith hard. Next few weeks will tell where his mettle is. In addition to answers to a number of intriguing questions, several new independent polls in the next few weeks should confirm where this race really stands. Right now it's a little bit like watching the Kremlin. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

New Albany Mayoral: Republican: City Clerk Regina Overton. **Democrat:** Mayor Doug England. **1995 Results:** England 6,845, Real (R) 5,886. **1999 Forecast:** The Indiana State Police investigation into Mayor England's campaign finance operation is expected to come to a head by the end of this month or early October. It stems from *Louisville Courier-Journal* accounts 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. Democrats are acknowledging that England will be in for a real nail biter, even if he is cleared in the probe. If there are criminal charges to be filed, he's in real trouble. That's why this race has now moved to.... **General Status:** *TOSSUP.*

INDIANA 2000 RACES

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, George Witwer, John Price. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **1996 results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** McIntosh conducts his first big statewide fly-around and gets pretty good press. Terre Haute *Tribune-Star* reports McIntosh "pledging a new day" as about 20 local Republicans turned out. He emphasized the "brain drain" issue. "They believe in big government, higher taxes and failing schools," McIntosh said. In Evansville, McIntosh said, "In the past, some representatives have written off the southern part of Indiana. I'm hoping people here will embrace my ideas." About 50 supporters packed a noisy rally at McIntosh's hometown Muncie rally. The *Star Press* reported, "If the hometown crowd is the toughest, U.S. Rep. David McIntosh had a great day Saturday." In Fort Wayne, McIntosh said Indiana's budget surplus "frankly deserves to go back to the people" (*News-Sentinel*). Democrat spokesman Doug Davidoff tells the *Star-Press*, "I don't know anybody who in this day and age would say the Democrats stand for higher taxes. For 11 years, we've had no state tax increases. If we stand for higher taxes, we've done a lousy job of delivering them." O'Bannon tells Democrats at French Lick, "We made certain promises - safe streets, reformed education, a new infrastructure system, we cut taxes $1 billion and we said we'd be fiscally responsible. We've been able to accomplish all those things and have 12 percent in reserve." Meanwhile, Price caps a week of excellent press for his tax-the-casinos-to-the-hilt proposition. House Speaker John Gregg observes, "That man is workin'." Price shows up along with 250 Republicans to the Daviess County home of former Sen. Homer Capehart for a placement of a historical marker at the 1938 "Cornfield Conference." A growing notion is this: McIntosh better not take Price lightly. **General Status:** *Leans O'Bannon.*

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

the incident. Also in Michigan City, high school principal Tim Bietry was reassigned after he broke the district's policy regarding alcohol on school grounds. Bietry brought in champagn on the final day of classes for a toast with teachers after students had left the building.

The State of Indiana created just 520 new jobs from 1997 to 1998, a period when the state's budget surplus grew to almost $2 billion (Charles Hoskinson, Associated Press). The AP reported, "It also was a period when state prison guards were forced to work overtime to cover unfilled shifts and Indiana State Police recruiting declined because other states and some local departments offered better salaries." Said Cheryl Reed, a spokeswoman for Gov. Frank O'Bannon, "We don't want to spend every dime that comes in because we might need that later. We're lucky right now because we don't have to do that as a state." Indiana University President Myles Brand noted, "Among the states that host Big Ten universities, Indiana is the worst in support." Brand said the lack of personnel is making it hard for IU to compete for top faculty.

Assessed values have declined throughout Lake

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

County, prompting The Times to report, "With rare exception, most Lake County property owners should plan on paying more in property taxes next year. The reason: Government spending continues to outpace growth." The newspaper reported that only 10 of the 43 taxing units saw growth that exceeded 5 percent. "Still, nearly all 43 taxing units plan to increase their spending by 5 percent, which translates into higher property taxes." An exception is the City of Whiting, which cut spending in its 2000 budget amidst growing concern that BP Amoco will cut or close its refinery operations there due to lower than exceptable profit margins. ❖

U.S. Senate: Republican: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. **Democrat:** David L. Johnson. **1994 results:** Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz (D) 470,799, Bourland (L) 17,343, Barton (A) 15,801. **2000 Forecast:** Johnson makes a fine introduction to Indiana Democrats at French Lick. "This is a race that can be made and should be made and should be won." He noted an uphill battle distinguishing himself between 430,000 other David Johnsons on an Internet search. "This is my fundraising base," he said. Johnson called himself a "mainstream Hoosier Democrat in the role of Evan Bayh and Frank O'Bannon." He asked Democrats, "Where is the Lugar education bill? The Lugar jobs bill? The Lugar crime bill? He's on a different stage." Johnson may take aim at Lugar over the Freedom To Farm Act at a time when depressed grain prices and land values are creating problems in the ag sector. But Johnson acknowledge to HPR that "there are many good things" in the FTFA and that they should be put into the proper context. In all, a good start for Johnson before a group who needs to believe he has a fighting chance. **Status:** *Safe Lugar.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** John Hamilton, Dr. Paul Perry. **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:** Here's an epic primary battle taking shape between Hamilton - perhaps the early frontrunner - and Perry, who appears to be very well organized and energetic. Hamilton forces at French Lick ended up wearing badges that read: R-96/R-98 - a reference to Perry's Republican primary votes in those years. Perry hopes to lasso Right to Life support and maintains that the D's best hope is for a conservative Dem. Hamilton's people respond that the last four D congressmen from the Bloody 8th have all been moderate/liberals. **General Status:** *Toss-Up.*

Congressional District 10: Republican: Marvin Scott, Tony Samuel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **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 Results:** Carson (D) 69,673, Hofmeister (R) 48,892, Peterson (L) 3,009. **2000 Forecast:** Tony Samuel, Supt. Suellen Reed's communication director, forms an exploratory committee and gets the blessing from McDonald and U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer to go forth. He'll be a better communicator than the sullen Scott. Samuel worked for Dean Evans in '92 and three years with Buyer and has been a Pike Township precinct official. He'll open with $10,000. **Status:** *SAFE D.*

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