THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink Inc. Founded in 1994, The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana.

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Subscriptions: $250 annually via fax or first class mail. Call 317-254-1533.

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Lake, Marion power plays center on 2%

Sheriffs on a roll; Sweezy nears deal

By BRIAN A. HOWEY *in Indianapolis*

Indiana's 2 percent club, the patronage practice many Hoosiers thought ended with the demise of party-controlled license branches, may be on the ropes as part of respective power plays by two titan sheriffs.

Marion County Sheriff Jack Cottey has signaled to county and township employees to do away with their 2 percent contributions to the Republican Central Committee as part of a power play to get Chairman John Sweezy to step down. It occurred as a deal is in the works that would have current Sweezy step aside some time this year to take on lecturing and symposium duties at IUPUI. In part, Cottey was cutting off the money flowing to the county's Republican Central Committee.

"The easiest way to freeze Sweezy out is to cut off his money," said one party insider

Then came a stunning move by Democratic Lake County Sheriff John Buncich last week to allow civilian and sworn officer employees to withdraw their contributions to the party's 2 percent fund. The *Gary Post-Tribune's* lead read: "...Buncich ripped at the heart of the Democratic Central Committee on Thursday as he urged his civilian employees to withdraw their contributions."

The newspaper reported that Buncich "shouldn't have to support the central committee's office in the Twin Towers." Buncich has been outraged by the Lake County Council's decision against pay increases due to financial problems due to out-of-balance budgets. The sheriff said that by withdrawing their 2 percent contributions, they would be

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'The differences that I see, the biggest one that will affect voters, is one of style....'

- U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, on his Republican gubernatorial primary opponent John R. Price, to Joe Follick of Thomson Indiana.

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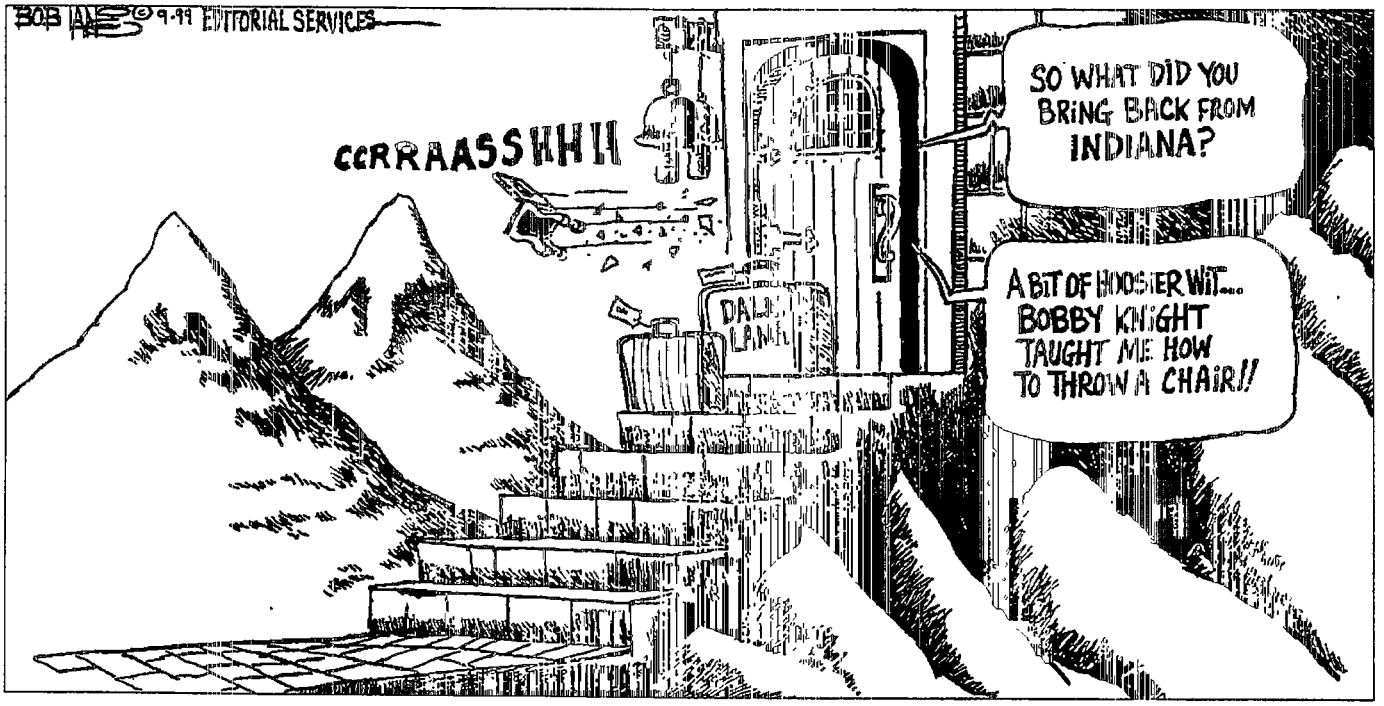
We're in Our Sixth Year!



TICKER TAPE

Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan sought agriculture disaster designation for 67 Indiana counties last week. "We will not see a 30 percent loss statewide," said Kernan (Terre Haute Tribune-Star). "But there are areas of the state that will experience 40 to 50 percent crop loss." Said Sullivan County farmer Ed Carmichael, "For as long as I have farmed, these have been the two worst years we've ever had - and they came back to back." On Tuesday, Sen. Richard Lugar urged Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman to approve the O'Bannon/ Kernan request

American Farm Bureau President Dean Kleckner told St. Joseph County

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Patronage, *from page 1*

getting a raise the council refused to give.

"If the council wants to play politics, I'll show them politics," Buncich was quoted in the *Post-Tribune*.

Lake County Democratic Chairman Stephen Stiglich, who lost a bitter East Chicago mayoral primary to Bob Pastrick in May, said, "I don't disagree with giving raises. I disagree with the method. I don't believe casting stones at the council is what I would do."

The moves to cut off the funds by Cottey and Buncich are power plays for control of Indiana's two cornerstone party organizations. Both are entering the next century under severe strain. Marion County's GOP machine limped into the 1999 elections faced with the once unfathomable prospect of losing the Indianapolis mayoral race. Then came attempts to discredit Sweezy with leaked child molestation charges that prosecutors refused to press. When Sweezy made his unplanned re-entry from a leave of absence, Cottey moved against the money jugular. He and Lawrence Mayor Tom Schneider would withhold township contributions to the county Central Committee. Later came word of an end to the "dunning" practice for 2 percent of wages.

Inside observers believe Cottey has enough votes to easily prevail in any convention to replace Sweezy. However, many believe Cottey overplayed his hand this summer, forcing Sweezy to dig in, much to the chagrin of the Gilroy mayoral campaign.

Like his Republican counterpart in Marion County, Sheriff Buncich may be making his early moves against Stiglich, who is seen as weakened following his latest loss in a long-running feud with Pastrick. The growing perception is that Stiglich can't win without his one-time mentor, Mayor Pastrick, who managed the chair's winning sheriff campaign last decade. Since Pastrick and Stiglich split, Pastrick has formed an alliance with Buncich, while Gary Mayor Scott King is allied with Stiglich. Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter is in the tenuous position of working support out of both camps.

Is Buncich ambitious? "Absolutely," said one prominent Lake County Democrat. "He's very popular. He'll have a fundraiser soon that will pull in 1,000 people."

Helmke, McIntosh split on approach to guns

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr. *in Washington*

If Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke joins gubernatorial hopeful Rep. David McIntosh on the GOP ticket in 2000, the two will have to agree to disagree on gun control.

Helmke made a pilgrimage to Washington last week to help the U.S. Conference of Mayors promote a Senate gun-control bill. The most contentious provision of the Senate legislation would mandate a three-day waiting period before purchases at gun shows. The waiting period, which allows time for criminal background checks, is required for sales in gun shops. The House version of the bill was shorn of gun-control measures and instead focused on addressing cultural causes of violence through character courses in school and other means.

Helmke joined President Clinton at the White House and House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) on the steps of the Capitol to promote the Senate bill, which is stalled in a conference committee. McIntosh (R-CD 2) was one of the champions of the House effort to move the gun violence debate away from gun curbs and toward a focus on social and cultural issues. Many House Republicans supported a 24-hour waiting period that Democrats called too weak. Opponents say the three-day waiting period would kill off gun shows, most of which last one or two days.

"There is a difference between the Congressman and the Mayor on Second Amendment freedoms," said Chris Jones, McIntosh's spokesman. "The Congressman has long been a supporter of protecting those freedoms."

"What's the sense of having these rules if there's that large loophole?" he said in an interview with HPR. "We can have Second Amendment protections and take some steps to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children."❖

The source said, "The perception is that Stiglich is a house of cards. When he runs, he can't win without Pastrick."

In both Lake and Marion counties, the 2 percent givers have fallen off since the height of patronage in the 1930s-'80s. Lake is so dominated by the Democratic Party that most of the fundraising takes place with the candidates. But the 2 percent proceeds - of which 75 percent would go to the elected official and 25 percent to the party - do help the party with mailing costs.

In Marion County, the 2 percent club has dwindled over the past 15 years. When Mayor Stephen Goldsmith took office in 1992, he asked the City-County Council to do away with the payroll deductions. While the council didn't stop the practice, the threat of job loss to those who didn't contribute became a thing of the past.

The question for Sheriffs Cottey and Buncich is that once they achieve their political aims, will it be possible for them to reinstitute the 2 percent club once most employees became used to having the money for themselves. Party observers in both Lake and Marion county have doubts. The longer the stand-offs go, the harder it will be for the parties to recoup the money.

Thus, Indiana's two cornerstone county political organizations may be losing a key component that once acted as the oil in the machine - money.

Will the parties be damaged? "Absolutely," said former Indiana Republican chairman Rex Early. "It's another spike into the heart of the political party system. When patronage is gone, consequently there will be no party discipline."

And a lack of party discipline only sets the stage for surprises at slating conventions and on Election Day.❖

TICKER TAPE

Farm Bureau members that he is concerned about consolidations in agribusinesses. "Are the present antitrust laws adequate to meet the needs of today?" Kleckner asked. "They were not designed for mergers that we are seeing now in my view" (Wayne Falda, South Bend Tribune). Specifically, farmers are concerned about Cargill's purchase of Continental Grain last year. Grain producers fear that has created a virtual monopoly in the upper Midwest. Another big concern is Smithfield Food's purchase of Murphy Family Farms of North Carolina, the nation's second largest hog producer. Kleckner added, "I'm wondering if in a year or two from now we will even have a market for our pigs unless we have a contract with a packer," he said.

Lake County Democratic Chairman Stephen Stiglich took issue with the small town convention system last Saturday at New Chicago's Democratic convention. "I still feel...some of the procedures need to be addressed, and there needs to be some changes in the format," said Stiglich (Times of Northwest Indiana). "It should be equal to the normal process for a primary. There's inequity in that sense. We have a different set of rules. New Chicago Clerk-Treasurer

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TICKER TAPE

Sherry Hall agreed. "They're trying to save small towns from having a large cost, but in doing that, they prevent a lot of people from having the chance to come and vote."

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler has called on Gov. O'Bannon to help ConAgra get an air quality permit for its $224 million soybean processing plant (Evansville Courier & Press). The permit is being hotly contested as it is being considered by IDEM.

AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney spoke on "Why workers will need unions in the 21st Century" to an overflow crowd at the University of Notre Dame last week. "As the millennium approaches, we are indeed in danger of becoming a nation where the moneied few, rather than the deserving many, make the decisions that affect our lives," Sweeney said. "Corporate profits are at an all-time high, CEOs are making 400 times what average factory workers make, and we have the widest wage and wealth gap of any industrialized nation in the world" (Paul Dodson, South Bend Tribune). Sweeney said that in 1998 unions organized 475,000 new members.

Fifty-seven new Indiana State Troopers received their cars on Monday

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Political yields remain stable despite fallow ag economy; lawmakers urged to stay the course

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Falling prices and a capricious Mother Nature have combined to hurt Hoosier farmers. But the fallow agricultural economy is not yet producing an outcry for changing federal farm policy nor does it seem to be creating a political backlash.

Indiana farmers who normally would expect to receive more than $2.50 per bushel for corn and $6 per bushel for soybeans are receiving fewer than $2 and $5 per bushel for each product, respectively, according to the Indiana Farm Bureau. Hog prices have dipped below $10 per 100 when it costs approximately $30 per 100 to raise them. Drought conditions have reduced yields enough in 67 Indiana counties to prompt Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Sen. Richard Lugar to call for federal disaster assistance.

But the bleak numbers haven't fomented a revolt against major federal farm law reform led three years ago by Lugar, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Lugar's bill, the Freedom to Farm Act, ended 60 years of Depression-era agricultural subsidies that mandated the type and amount of crops farmers could plant in order to qualify for government payments. Under the 1996 law, farmers are given the flexibility to make planting decisions based on market demand while receiving a declining amount of subsidies over seven years.

Worldwide crop yield records and financial crises in Asia and Russia over the last year, however, have combined to weaken markets. The Senate overwhelmingly passed a $7.65 billion agriculture emergency spending bill last month. That package, which would be paid for out of this year's non-Social Security $14 billion budget surplus, has been tacked on to the $61 billion Senate fiscal 2000 agriculture appropriations bill, which is now being considered along with the $60 billion House ag appropriations bill in a conference committee. Lugar met with the House and Senate agriculture leadership late in the afternoon on Sept. 14 to map a strategy for dealing with the agriculture appropriations bill, one of 13 spending measures Congress must pass by Oct. 1.

CONGRESS WATCH

Rep. Mark Souder (R-CD 4) said the Senate emergency bill figure is a "floor" for House deliberations. "Our leadership knows that the farm bloc will vote with Democrats on the highest number. If (funding) is too low, we will bolt from this bill." A coalition of about 40 members from farming and oil districts "can stop anything moving in the House," where the GOP holds a five-seat majority.

Souder said it is important that emergency funding remain at the Senate level so that Congress can subsidize prices and offer drought relief. If emergency funding dips to $6 billion or lower, Congress will probably add relief funds to an omnibus spending bill after reviewing crop yields.

The emergency funding would help farmers who have been side-swiped by low prices and low yields while trying to take advantage of the market orientation of Freedom to Farm, which Souder supports. "I want to give the system every chance possible," he said. But the farm problems must be addressed. "If in the Midwest we can't keep most of (our) farmers in business, then we will revisit Freedom to Farm next year."

The Indiana Farm Bureau supports Freedom to Farm, but also wants immediate help for Hoosier growers. "We think it's the way to go for agriculture in the long run," said Kent Yeager, director of government relations for the organization.

But "there are a lot of farmers who won't get to the long-term if we don't do something in the short-term. We have ended up with lower prices than we ever thought we would see."

Yeager joined a group of 20 state legislators and farm organization leaders in a trip on Sept. 14-15 to Washington to meet with Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and members of the Indiana congressional delegation.

Two Hoosiers who serve on the House Agriculture Committee weren't inundated by farmer protest when they returned to their districts over the August recess. Rep. Baron Hill (D-CD 9) held several meetings with farmers during his walk across the district. Angela Belden, Hill's press secretary, said farmers expressed "mixed emotions" about Freedom to Farm. In one meeting, a farmer told Hill, "'How can we expect you to know what to do when the people in this room can't agree on what to do?'"

In the district next door to Hill's, farmers didn't force the agriculture economy to the top of the issue agenda. During a meeting of Rep. John Hostettler's agriculture advisory board, "There was more talk of second amendment (gun control) issues and concerns higher on the list," said Hostettler spokesman Michael Jahr. Hostettler (R- CD 8) also serves on the House ag committee. Jahr said Hostettler voted for FFA and continues to support it.

Sen. Evan Bayh (D) "favors the free market approach" in agriculture, said spokeswoman Mary Meagher. "In the long run, he believes there should be less government influence in farming. It is better for the consumer, the taxpayer and the farmer."

Hill, a freshman, has formed an agricultural advisory board consisting of 50 farmers from CD 9. The panel's first meeting was held Sept. 2 in Scottsburg. Hill will compile a set of agriculture priorities based on board input. Will Hill seek to change FFA? "That's going to depend on what we see in this report," said Belden.

In a didactic Senate floor speech on Aug. 2, Lugar framed the Senate debate on emergency agriculture spending by arguing that the farm economy isn't in a state of emergency. Net farm income is projected to be $43.8 billion in 1999, less than a 1 percent change from $44.1 billion in 1998. Normal federal farm payments - FFA transition payments, loans deficiency payments and disaster assistance - independent of the emergency bill will total a near-record $16.6 billion in 1999. Lugar said that if the $10.8 billion in emergency spending originally proposed by the Democrats were added to the projected farm income for 1999, the total would fall just short of the record for farm income.

Lugar also outlined a plan to increase net farm income by $2 billion annually for farmers who utilize risk-management strategies like purchasing crop insurance, entering into commodity futures or options contracts, or reducing debt and increasing liquidity.

A leading agricultural analyst agreed that Congress would help farmers most by reducing trade barriers. Dennis Avery, director of global food issues at the Hudson Institute, said that over the next 40 years, farm production will have to increase threefold to feed a global population of 8 billion people. Falling trade barriers can double annual farm income within a decade without requiring an increase in land or labor. "We're looking at the biggest export opportunity in history, and Congress is telling us to put our farmers back in the subsidy pocket. All they need to do to bring prosperity to American farmers is to liberate trade rules under the WTO (World Trade Organization)."

"Baron has put in a lot of time developing an understanding of agriculture issues. He's really learning how to talk to farmers," Yeager said of Hill.

Avery hopes the farmers will tell Hill, and other members, to stay the course with FFA. "The biggest mistake we could make now is to become frightened and panicky when we're half-way through the reform that has to occur." ❖

TICKER TAPE

(WTHR-TV).

Fort Wayne City Councilwoman Rebecca Ravine was asked to leave a Summit City restaurant where she was having breakfast with former Allen County Sheriff Joe Squadrito. The reason: Because she had written the restaurant smoking law (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). And Willie's Restaurant had been found in violation of the smoking law. A restaurant employee approached Ravine and told her she was not welcome. When she asked if she could finish her coffee and eat her meal, she was told OK, "But please don't come back."

A group of Fort Wayne restaurants has filed a third suit against the anti-smoking ordinance. The suit filed by Hall's Restaurants, the Oyster Bar, Richard's Restaurants, Bandido's and Casa D'Angelo charges that the city overstepped its bounds in passing the June 1998 ordinance (News-Sentinel).

The Shelby County Council has decided to cover a budget shortfall instead of asking taxpayers to pay for an error caused by the county auditor's office (Shelbyville News). The Council voted 7-0 to absorb the impact of the error.

Huntington County

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TICKER TAPE

Democratic Party Treasurer Bud Wolf was killed in a auto accident last week.

Bloomington leads the nation in the number of renters struggling to pay housing costs (Bloomington Herald-Times). The National Low-Income Housing Coalition says that 59 percent of renters in the city can't afford a typical two-bedroom apartment.

Enrollment at Ball State University tumbled to its lowest point in 14 years (Muncie Star Press). Enrollment at BSU peaked in 1993 with 20,717 students. The 17,459 students this year was the lowest since 1985.

The City of Bremen had 150 people attend a police department funeral for Lando, a BPD K-9 officer. During the funeral, six police officers served as pallbearers for the dog's casket, the American Legion gave a 21-gun salute, "Taps" was played, and Rev. Bob Dombrowski gave a brief eulogy (South Bend Tribune).

The Lake County Council was asked to buy 150 new voting machines so the the November elections in Gary won't have to be conducted by paper ballots. About 260 Lake County voting machines remain impounded from the May primary in Gary because of a mayoral

Indiana Racing Form

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

TRENDLINE: Could this be the year of animal impact in Indiana mayoral races? Bunny the Elephant in Evansville to fish kills in Indianapolis?.

Anderson Mayoral: Republican: Lani Czarniecki. **Democrat:** Mayor Mark Lawler. **Independent:** Linda Haynes. **1995 Results:** Lawler (D) 9,411, Graham (R) 8,817. **1999 Forecast:** Controversy is boiling up over an NAACP "report card" that gave Mayor Lawler an "F" while Haynes received an "A" and Czarniecki received a "B." Lawler failed to respond to the NAACP survey, the Herald-Bulletin reported. Lawler said he was unaware of the NAACP meeting that Haynes and Czarniecki attended and spoke to. Lawler said he did not understand that he was supposed to respond to the survey. NAACP board member Bill Watson said it was understandable that Lawler was confused because the survey was "not handled in a businesslike manner." Said Watson, "I'm saying the mayor has not been treated right. I am not a flag-waver for Mark Lawler, but this is not fair. I hate to see him caught up in something that is half-baked." NAACP President James Burgess defended the report card, called Lawler a friend, but dismissed Lawler claims that he had done a lot for the city's heavily black west side. "He has done a lot, but maybe what he's done isn't what the people want." With a corruption investigation hanging over Lawler, an erosion of his African-American constituency can't be good news. Haynes appears to be the candidate that has momentum in this one. **General Status:** *Leans Lawler.*

HORSE RACE

Evansville Mayoral: Republican: County Councilman Russell Lloyd Jr.. **Democrat:** Rick Borries. **1995 Results:** McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. **1999 Forecast:** Bunny the Elephant may have a major impact in this race after all. A City Parks Board decision to place Bunny into a Tennessee elephant sanctuary erupted in a bitterly angry session where Democratic Council members Steve Melcher, David Mosby, Steve Bagbey and Connie Robinson - all Borries supporters - demanded that Parks Director James Haddan and two zoo managers be fired or resign. The *Courier & Press* reported under the headline "Head almost roll over Bunny" that council members were "apparently caught flat-footed" over the parks board decision to retire Bunny, a zoo fixture for 45 years. Said Republican Councilman Taylor Payne, "I think we just got the first taste of a Borries administration. I think that was bullying and I think it's absolutely wrong." Mayor Frank McDonald was upset with the Democrats. "If they have a problem with the department they ought to be seeing me," the mayor said. Borries said that he understands the frustration on part of council members who felt "the train had left the station on this issue and they weren't adequately informed." Borries called it a "hodgepodge of poor planning." Lloyd weighed in, saying the council Democrats "were out of bounds" in asking for the resignations but said the councilmen "had legitimate concerns about the parks board meeting." Lloyd added that he would like to see if there were options for keeping Bunny in Evansville. Regardless, this is the craziest thing Horse Race has seen yet - a real elephant that could sway an election. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Linda Buskirk. **Democrat:** Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Forecast:** Too quiet on the Summit City front. Buskirk put up new billboards. Richard put out a nice glossy mailer. Must be the calm before the debates. Richard needs to get moving. **General Status:** *Leans Buskirk.*

Hammond Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Duane Dedelow. **Democrat:** Tom Philpot. **1995 Results:** Dedelow (R) 11,099, Philpot (D) 10,578. **1999 Forecast:** Grand jury investigation into several Hammond PD officers over an intoxication incident and subsequent coverup poses problem for Dedelow. As Horse Race has said numerous times, police controversies are

always dangerous for incumbent mayors. While Dedelow's poll numbers have him up now, his campaigns tend to end up "running out of gas" as one Lake County source said.. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Hobart Mayoral: Republican: Robert Malizzo. **Democrat:** Mayor Linda Buzinec. **1995 Results:** Malinzzo (R), Buzinec (D). **1999 Forecast:** Buzinec showed up at her new campaign HQ Saturday "clad in a yellow sweat shirt, black slacks and good walking shoes" (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). A dozen volunteers were there wearing "Hobart works" T-shirts. **General Status:** *Leans Buzinec.*

Huntington Mayoral: Republican: Terry Abbett. **Democrat:** Mayor Bob Kyle. **1995 Results:** Kyle (D) 2,297, Snowden (R) 2,013. **1999 Forecast:** The annexation of 119 acres for an industrial park could be the decisive issue as Mayor Kyle seeks a second term (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Kyle is trying to convince voters to approve the project. Abbett and six of seven city council members questioned a number of things about the project, including why it took three years to get it going. "It's a good thing for the community," said Councilman Robert Brown Jr., who is also Huntington County Republican chairman. "It doesn't matter who's in office. If a community doesn't grow, it dies." Kyle said he spent the first three years in office getting rid of a $1.5 million budget deficit. Abbett said the city has lost 1,000 jobs since 1996, but Kyle said that many jobs were created under his watch. Kyle may borrow an old Ronald Reagan phrase: "Are you better off now than four years ago?" Given Huntington's Republican nature, we see this as shaping up to be a close race. **General Status:** *TOSSUP.*

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:** It's amazing that none of the media have done a horse race poll to date. *NUVO Newsweekly/* TeleResearch will be in the field this weekend with published results on Sept. 22. Peterson camp says it's a dead heat. Gilroy running anti-graffitti TV spots and hosted anti-graffitti press conference with Prosecutor Scott Newman. The two of them got *Indianapolis Star* cartoonist Gary Varvel in hot water over his drawing for the Newman birthday party benefit for Gilroy. *New York Times* covers story (complete with cartoon) on Monday. Varvel apologizes to *Star* staff, some of whom complained about it. State Board of Accounts poised to release audit of Goldsmith's parks and Oscar Robertson/Smoot contracts. Golf course audit still in the works. Goldsmith spared with IDEM over clean water standards for White River and had a meeting with "news executives." Gilroy herself called the permit timing "curious." Peterson responded to *NUVO*: "There's not one shred of evidence" that he was playing politics with water permits. *Star*/WTHR debate will be Oct. 11 at Butler University. Horse Race senses the gloves are about to come off. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Kokomo Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Jim Trobaugh. **Democrat:** Councilman Mike Kennedy. **1995 Results**: Trobaugh 5,108, Lushin 4,713. **1999 Forecast:** The War of the Developers is on. Developer Scott Pitcher told the *Kokomo Tribune* that Mayor Trobaugh had "reneged" on a promise to publicly fund a downtown sidewalk program. Pitcher said that the mayor and city council eventually passed $700,000 for the project, "but only after Pitcher mobilized a coalition of downtown merchants ... to press the issue." Pitcher now has "massive Kennedy campaign banners hanging from every building Pitcher's leasing company owns in downtown Kokomo." Meanwhile a second developer, Dick Rayl, is backing Trobaugh after the mayor used $102,000 in unused federal funds to put new sidewalks around the new Rayl-built state office building. Kennedy said, "I'm just trying to stay out of it." *Tribune* reported that Kennedy is seeking "full support of labor." Trobaugh is responding by emphasizing how Kokomo's auto manufacturing is thriving under his watch. **Status:** *Leans Trobaugh.*

South Bend Mayoral: Republican: Steve Bradley. **Democrat:** Mayor Steve Leucke. **1995 Results:** Kernan (D) 14,309, Waite (R) 3,106. **1999 Forecast:** Bradley went on the offensive, revealing a "leaked" memo that claims that Mayor Luecke will propose a tax increase to support the ailing College Football Hall of Fame. Jack Colwell of the *South Bend*

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TICKER TAPE

recount. Wichita, Kan., refused to lend Gary its voting machines for fear another recount might impound their machines as well (The Times).

The cities of Indianapolis and Westfield will host gun buy-backs this Saturday as part of a $15 million federal program. A similar event last Saturday in Chicago had the Cook County sheriff buy 1,001 weapons.

U.S. Rep. Baron Hill's toiling in the debt-reduction vineyard produced a major ink harvest over the weekend. Hill was the lead in a Sept. 11New York Times page one, above the fold article focusing on how debt reduction is catching on as an issue. Times reporter Dick Stevenson's lead: "Representative Baron P. Hill, a moderate Democrat from Indiana, spent a good part of August walking across his district, talking with constituents about what to do with the Federal budget surplus. Mr. Hill says he heard little enthusiasm for the $792 billion Republican tax-cutting plan ... Instead, he heard a remarkably consistent call for Congress and the Adminis-tration to use the surplus for a purpose long supported by economists but until now seen as a political yawner by both parties: reducing the $3.6 trillion debt."

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TICKER TAPE

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler will receive an honorary doctorate from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology when the school celebrates its 125th anniversary this Saturday. Hostettler is the first Rose-Hulman graduate to be elected to Congress.

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton has announced he will hold hearings on Sept. 22 on President Clinton's decision to grant clemency to 16 convicted FALN terrorists. "While there is nothing Congress can do to reverse his decision, we must ask the President why he did something that virtually every law enforcement agency in America opposed," Burton said. ❖

Tribune put it in football terms: "Did Republican mayoral nominee Bradley score winning points with a leaked memo on College Football Hall of Fame finances? Or is he guilty of excessive celebration?" Bradley acknowleged, "We intercepted a memo from the Luecke administration." Luecke said he hasn't proposed a tax increase for the hall, but in a big "however" said that he would suggest a tax levy for the hall in 2001. Luecke said that because the hall is running revenue shortfalls (estimated at about $1 million annually), taxpayers will have to foot the bill one way or another to prevent defaulting on the bonds. At a press conference last week, Luecke said, "The city will not default on a bond obligation while I am mayor." Bradley said someone "I don't even know" handed him the memo that he thought was a campaign contribution **General status:** *Solid Luecke.*

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:** Tom New leaves as governor's CoS to head the re-election campaign, as expected. O'Bannon still listening on New's replacement. But the really big event this week is the beginning of the ISTEP+ and the crucial Graduation Qualifying Exams. About 25 percent of the Class of 2000 has yet to pass. "Some of the students who haven't passed are special education students," reported the *South Bend Tribune*. Horse Race is unsure what the threshhold of failture would be for this to become a big O'Bannon problem in 2000. McIntosh and Price are already angling on education as a top issue. ISTEP test results should be in the hands of schools on Jan. 5 and available to the media in February (*Elkhart Truth*). McIntosh spent the congressional recess "visiting the state's hinterlands as he builds up support for the 2000 election" (Joe Follick, *Thomson Indiana*). Said McIntosh, "My background, my love, is discussing the nitty-gritty of policy. If you try to give that in a talk to the Rotary, you're going to put people to sleep. I've learned that part of what I'm doing is communicating, not just thinking about the right answers." McIntosh said he will steer away from specific policy statements until early 2000. McIntosh about Price: "On substance, John and I don't have a lot of differences. We're both strong pro-life advocates. We both came from the social conservative movement into politics. The differences that I see, the biggest one that will affect voters, is one of style." **General Status:** *Leans O'Bannon.*

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