THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'I would even give serious consideration to seeking the nomination of the Reform Party. But that's down the road....

- Former Vice President Dan Quayle, in Toledo, Ohio. (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette)

Big tax fears radiate across Indiana

Reassessment may be prime 2000 issue

By BRIAN A. HOWEY *in Indianapolis*

Hoosier newspapers across the state spread the news and caught a reaction ranging from fear to indifference from citizens and public officials to the looming property tax reassessments that were announced by the State Board of Tax Commissioners last week.

The issue of taxes is expected to become a major issue in the 2000 gubernatorial race as well as the fight to control the Indiana House. The tax commissioners predicted Indiana homeowners would see a 7 percent increase for homeowners, 1.7 percent for utilities, while business taxes would decline by 4.3 percent and 1.2 percent for farms.

"It's meant to make the tax system in Indiana fairer," said Todd Sears, executive secretary of the tax board (*Bloomington Herald-Times*). "It's also something that should be easier to understand. Under the current system, one of the things we hear is that people just don't understand how it works." The new regulations will be formally published on Oct. 1. A public hearing is scheduled in Indianapolis for Nov. 9.

In Lake County, word of the reassessment that could range in the "double to triple digit hikes" sent "county taxpayers and officials into shock," the *Times of Northwest Indiana* reported. The newspaper quoted Highland landlord and homeowner Joe Murovic as saying, "They're trying to put me out of existence. It's going to take me two months to pay these taxes instead of three weeks. And they keep asking for more?"

The *Times* reported that tax increases could range

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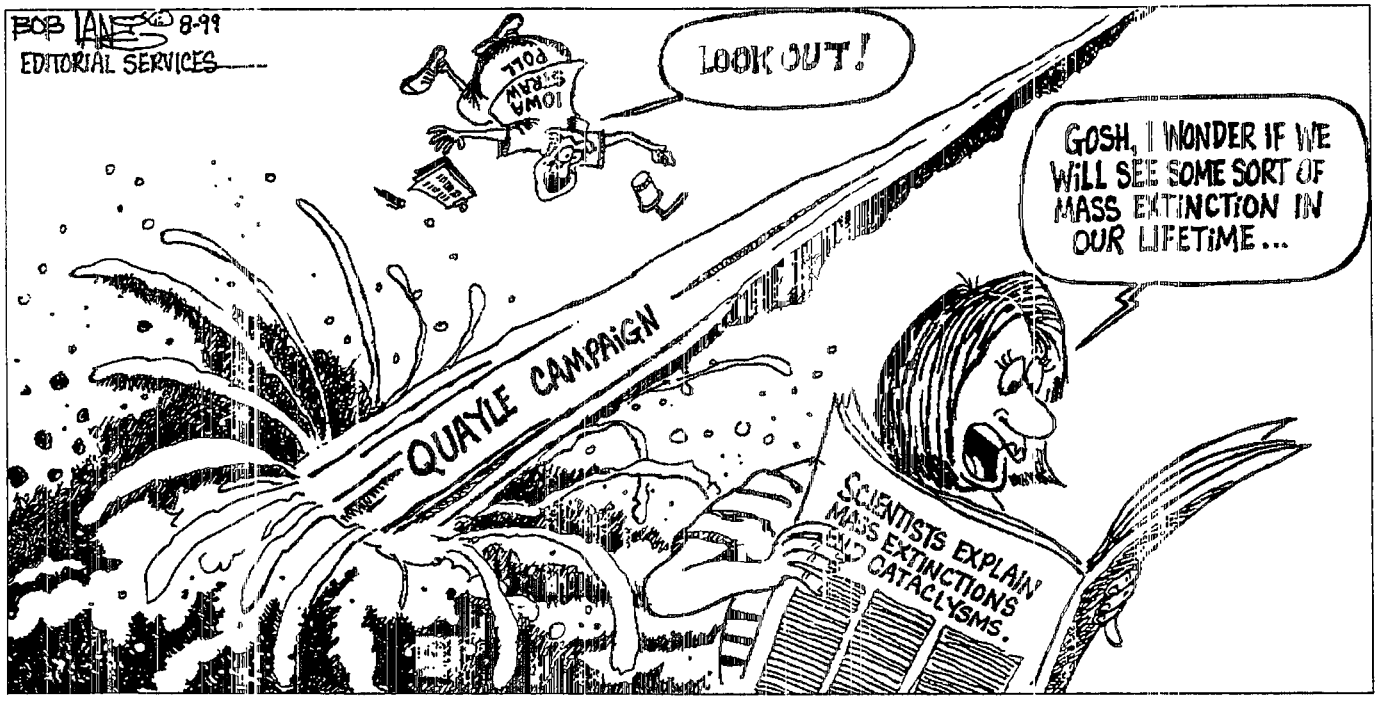
We're in Our Sixth Year!



TICKER TAPE

Former Vice President Dan Quayle told Defiance College students that he might considering seeking the Reform Party presidential nomination. "The Republican Party is the reform party," said Quayle (Rachel Blakeman, Journal Gazette). Quayle said he feared that a Pat Buchanan RP run for president would siphon off votes from the GOP nominee and give the White House to the Democrats. "I would even give serious consideration to seeking the nomination of the Reform Party," Quayle said in Toledo. "But that's down the road."

South Bend area synagogues and Jewish schools increased security during the High Holidays period

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Taxes, *from page 1*

from 5.84 percent in Crown Point-Center Township to 20.74 percent in Crown Point-Ross Township. The *Gary Post-Tribune* reported East Chicago homeowners could see a 241 percent increase. Gary homeowners could see a 35 percent reduction. The Lake County average would be a 29 percent residential increase. The *Post-Tribune's* headline read, "Local leaders caution residents not to panic over tax projections."

Another shock wave was sent through Northwest Indiana's steel industry, where USX - the most taxed steel plant in the world - was expected to see its property tax increase. "We are already gravely concerned about our current tax liability in Lake County," said USX spokesman Mike Dixon (*The Times*). "It just seems inconceivable that we could see an increase."

Tom McDermott, president and CEO of the Northwest Indiana Forum, reacted: "If an industry has to pay more in property taxes, they have to find other ways of keeping their costs in control. Unfortunately, usually the only way to compete is to cut down on employment levels. If that happens here, it means Northwest Indiana loses more of the best-paying jobs."

Lake County is the bulwark of Gov. Frank O'Bannon's 2000 re-election bid - a county where the governor has made close to three dozen trips during his first term. The governor's office has come up with the slogan "Thanks a Billion" for the $1 billion in across the board tax cuts O'Bannon has ushered in. But the campaign of U.S. Rep. David McIntosh dismisses the O'Bannon message, saying that in the Bayh-O'Bannon years property taxes have doubled in many places.

McIntosh and his **GOP** primary opponent John Price are poised to make O'Bannon's lack of fundamental tax restructuring a major 2000 issue. O'Bannon and his team have stressed that the uncertainty surrounding long-drawn-out decisions by the Tax Commissioners and the Indiana Supreme Court handcuffed them on making significant restructuring.

In another Democratic stronghold, Harrison County along the Ohio River would see a 44.2 percent increase. Gov. O'Bannon had tried to get the Indiana General Assembly to delay the reassess-

Colwell, Okeson, Gifford, Dant joint HPR panels

A number of panelists have committed to the first-ever Howey Political Report Pre-Election Symposiums that will take place next month in South Bend, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis and Evansville.

■On Oct. 20 in South Bend, columnist **Jack Colwell** of the *South Bend Tribune* will be the featured local commentator on the mayoral race.

■In Fort Wayne on Oct. 21, former Indiana Clerk of Courts **John Okeson** will join CNN cartoonist **Bob Lang**, whose work appears weekly in HPR. Okeson is with Baker & Daniels Fort Wayne office.

■On Oct. 27 in Indianapolis, **Ronald D. Gifford** of Baker & Daniels will offer insights into the 2000 gubernatorial and legislative elections and potential impact on public policy. Gifford is a leading governmental affairs and utilities expert with Baker & Daniels.

■And in Evansville on Oct. 28, **Miriam Smulevitz Dant** will join the panel to discuss 2000 gubernatorial and legislative races. Dant was an executive assistant to then-Gov. Evan Bayh and now practices environmental and utility law at Baker & Daniels as part of the government affairs team in Indianapolis.

HPR Publisher **Brian A. Howey** will moderate the panel and provide analysis of 1999 mayoral races, as well as 2000 state and federal races.

TeleResearch pollster **Jeff Lewis** will provide late poll information on the mayoral races. Washington D.C. analysts **Charles Cook** and **Stuart Rothenberg** will present analyses of Indiana 2000 congressional and gubernatorial races in a video format along with HPR's Washington correspondent **Mark Schoeff Jr.**

Complete site and registration information will be listed in the Sept. 30 edition of The Howey Political Report and at *www.howeypolitics.com*

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ment by one year, but the GOP-controlled Senate blocked the move. State Rep. Mark Kruzan told the *Herald-Times,* "This could be an unprecedented property tax sticker shock that may be unnecessary. It's already instilling fear in a lot of people on fixed incomes in older homes."

Randolph County assessor Noel Carpenter was skeptical of the tax commissioners' pronouncements. "The state tax board is shooting in the dark," said Carpenter. "They don't know what's going on" (*Muncie Star Press*).

Delaware County Assessor James Carmichael agreed. "The numbers are all over the place. They sent a memo not long ago saying residential property would go up even more than this."

Monroe County homeowners were told they could see an 18.2 percent increase (*Bloomington Herald-Times*). That prompted State Rep. Vern Tincher to tell the Herald-Times, "I think the impact on residential property will not be as great as the original projections. The State Tax Board has made some effort to lessen the impact by the new rules they have adopted." ❖

TICKER TAPE

(South Bend Tribune) that ran for a week and ended at sundown Monday. "I kind of liken it to a fire drill," said Marilyn Gardner of the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph County. "When you think about recent events, you get pulled back to reality and so you begin to think more seriously about things." Several temples hired uniform officers. All congregations conducted a security audit of their facilities and procedures.

Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan led a 19-member delegation of Indiana farming leaders to Washington to appeal for increased federal crop subsidies. Meanwhile, Gov. Frank O'Bannon's administration worked on a state assistance program. Meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, Kernan and Purdue University's Vic Lechtenberg sought 16 steps, including three immediate: Increase market transition payments to farmers; increase the limit on loan deficiency to $150,000 from $100,000; and increasing the Conservation Reserve program from 30 million acres to at least 35 million acres. "This is the best thinking from Indiana's agricultural community," said Kernan (South Bend Tribune). "We weren't confrontational. We just asked that they respectfully consider our ideas."

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TICKER TAPE

Just months after the University of Notre Dame turned down an invitation to the Big 10, the Fighting Irish went 0-3 against conference teams, including losses to Michigan, Purdue and last week's 23-13 defeat to Michigan State at South Bend. Wrote Al Lesar of the South Bend Tribune, "If anyone still had any questions about why Notre Dame's football team wouldn't want to join the Big 10, the past three Saturdays have supplied the answer."

The three finalists for the Indiana Supreme Court vacancy include Indianapolis attorney Mary Beth Ramey, Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Robert D. Rucker Jr., and Porter Superior Court Judge Nancy Vaidik. Several newspaper reports pointed out that "Rucker is black, while Ramey and Vaidik are white" (Journal Gazette).

State Rep. Win Moses told the Fort Wayne Black Expo that the goal for racial relations should be - quoting author Toni Morrison - creating an Indiana "where race exists but does not matter" (Journal Gazette). "The legal differences are down, but the division in our hearts remain. We have to find a way for healing." Moses added that even if this isn't done for moral reasons, economic reasons will make racial classes more interdependent, noting that

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Burton doggedly pursues Clinton

Hoosier congressman forges ahead despite 'scandal fatigue'

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - In the congressional garden, Rep. Dan Burton's House Government Reform and Oversight Committee is a hardy perennial.

Each year you can count on the panel to pursue Clinton administration scandal and controversy-no matter how uninviting the political atmosphere may be. On Sept. 21, Burton's committee held a hearing that focused on President Clinton's granting clemency to 14 Puerto Rican terrorists. Later this fall, Burton will investigate the FBI raid on a Waco, Tex., compound that left about 80 members of a cult dead in the spring of 1993. Documents recently brought to light reveal that the FBI used incendiary devices during its assault.

The high-profile assignments have put Burton in a familiar position- on television and on the end of partisan swords. On *Meet the Press* Sept. 21, Burton presided over the parsing of a sensational tape that showed a couple of the Puerto Rican terrorists assembling a bomb.

The media spotlight notwithstanding, Burton may have trouble getting traction on this round of scandal investigations. The frequently bombastic congressman will not only have to rein in his temper, he'll also have to overcome "scandal fatigue" among the American people and somehow carve a niche of credibility while a highly regarded former senator- John Danforth of Missouri - conducts his own independent investigation of the Waco incident.

In Burton's favor this time around is the fact that several Democrats have voiced opposition to the terrorist clemency and have raised concerns about the government's actions during the Waco raid. Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) has called on Clinton to explain his decision to free the Puerto Rican nationalists. Torricelli is the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and hails from the state next door to New York, where Hillary Rodham Clinton is running for the Senate. Some observers speculate that Clinton granted clemency in the case to give his wife a boost with the substantial Puerto Rican population in New York. Clinton has said that the severity of the Puerto Ricans' sentences was a factor in his clemency decision.

CONGRESS WATCH

On Waco, Rep. Shelia Jackson-Lee (D-Tex.), one of the most outspoken liberals in Congress, has been critical of the administration.

Clemency and Waco don't "seem to be as polarizing as the impeachment issue was," said John Williams, Burton's spokesman.

On *Meet the Press*, Burton cited the bipartisan flavor of the current scandal menu. "The president has a moral responsibility to tell the American people why he did this," Burton said of the clemency order. "And I think Democrats and Republicans agree."

But Burton's committee is the-worst for wear after a bruising year in which he pushed an investigation of alleged Clinton administration campaign finance violations. Burton and the ranking Dem-ocrat, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Ca.), as well as Democrat Tom Lantos (D-Ca.) clashed vociferously. Burton undermined his own cause by calling President Clinton a "scumbag" in an *Indianapolis Star* interview last year and generally being portrayed as a Republican Javert relentlessly pursuing Clinton's Valjean.

"Any day that Dan Burton and Henry Hyde and Bob Barr are on TV is a good day for Democrats," James Jordan, political director of the DSCC, told the

New York Times in a Sept. 18 article.

That sentiment may not be confined to Capitol Hill. Voters are growing weary of the scandal pursuit that regularly engulfs the capital and the media. "Evidence is showing not only scandal fatigue but scandal fatigue among independents," said John Zogby, president of Zogby International, a respected polling firm. "What folks want to do is ride out the Clinton administration and then get a fresh start. (They do not) want to fan the flames of the past."

Burton provides a foil to Danforth, a paragon of bipartisanism during his tenure in Congress who was appointed by Attorney General Janet Reno to look into Waco. Danforth "is not out to get Janet Reno or the president," said Zogby. "Dan Burton has made clear that his primary motivation in life is both of the latter. In that vein, enough already."

On Waco, Danforth's panel will confine itself to the issue of whether anyone broke the law. Burton's committee will look at the judgment and the decision-making process. "It may not be an illegal activity, but if it was incompetent, we certainly don't want people in charge of things like Waco if they're not doing their jobs properly," Burton said on the Sept. 12 edition of *Fox News Sunday*.

Although the nuances of their efforts vary, the operations of the two committees will contrast. Burton's panel likely will remain on the public radar, Danforth will be under the radar, said Larry Sabato, professor of political science at the University of Virginia.

Burton "can create headlines," Sabato said. "Danforth, being the antithesis of Burton, will not create headlines. He'll be invisible while conducting his investigation."

But the success of his investigations has often been out of Burton's hands. His campaign finance inquiry stalled after dozens of key witnesses pleaded the Fifth Amendment and refused to appear before his panel. Now Clinton is claiming executive privilege in declining to turn over documents that could explicate his clemency decision. It's not clear what kind of cooperation Burton will get from the administration on Waco.

One of Burton's Hoosier colleagues on the government reform committee pointed out that probing a sitting administration is always an uphill battle. "These investigations will be most effective two years after these guys are out of office," said Rep. Mark Souder (R-CD 4). If you can't provide indisputable evidence of malfeasance-like a tape recording-the odds are slim you'll get anywhere. "The only other way to get people to talk is if they're out of power," said Souder.

The other obstacle Burton faces is the clock. Time is winding down on the congressional calendar this year. The estimated adjournment date is sometime in November. That doesn't leave much of a cushion for Burton to do all the legwork required for his inquiries. The committee will have to wade through 53 boxes of documents from the 1995 Waco congressional investigation. That inquiry was slowed in part because the administration dumped thousands of pages of documents on the committee just days prior to the opening of the hearings.

Burton is anticipating an early November launch of Waco hearings. But he's not going to rush into them. "He doesn't want to go off half-cocked with this," said Williams.

The other ticking in Burton's ear is the political clock. In 2000, attention will turn toward the myriad national, state and local races on the ballot. But that doesn't mean that there won't be an opportunity for scandal to cut through the clutter. "There's plenty of time for political mischief and shenanigans on both sides," said Sabato. But the audience might be a tough sell. "It's not just Clinton fatigue, there's scandal fatigue across the board. But that doesn't mean people won't absorb the information." ❖

TICKER TAPE

by 2010, Fort Wayne's workforce will be 40 percent nonwhite.

Last Friday on Network Indiana's Mike Pence Show, the guest was Pat Buchanan. Said Pence, "Pat, stay with us." Buchanan replied, "Mike, come with us." And Pence responded, "Where you are going, I cannot follow."

ABC's Ted Koppel told Notre Dame students at the annual Red Smith Lecture in Journalism, "We are these days drowning in information, very little of which is translated into knowledge" (South Bend Tribune). "To be a journalist in America requires no more than simply your assertion that you are one." Koppel said that recently, anyone could do that but they had to be hired by a newspaper or broadcaster to reach a sizable audience. "Now, anyone with a computer and a Web site can literally reach anyone in the world," Koppel said, citing Matt Drudge as one who "embodies" that notion. Koppel added, "There is more of a need for good journalists than ever before." Without that, "We face a world of electronic anarchy, where so much information exists that the mind doesn't know what to believe."

Dunkirk Clerk-Treasurer Mickey Staton abruptly

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TICKER TAPE

resigned, with a letter citing "personal and medical problems." The Muncie Star Press reported that Mayor Robert Davenport - who lost his re-election bid in the Democratic primary - was in tears after receiving the letter. It came during a State Board of Accounts audit of the town. "They have asked me not to divulge anything," said Davenport. "But hopefully the city won't be hurt too bad."

The South Bend Tribune ran a story on the opposite directions State Sen. Cleo Washington and his brother, LaPlaz Washington, took in life. LaPlaz has spent more than a third of his life in prison and is accused of beating a woman to death with a hammer and raping another woman 13 months ago. "Every chance that Cleo was presented, I was presented first," LaPlaz said. "If I had applied myself, there probably would have been a Washington & Washington law firm. That's what my dad envisioned. My brother's really got a chance to go places. Just the idea of me getting into trouble and putting him in a position to answer questions about my activities makes me cringe. It hurts more than I can put into words."

Libertarian candidates for city council in Muncie are complaining that local voter registration information is

Indiana Racing Form

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

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's moving day to a Tennessee sanctuary is set for mid-October - just a couple weeks before the election. Businessman Carl Riecken runs newspaper adds trying to rally support to keep Bunny in Evansville. "Taxpayers, vote your choice on Bunny!" the ad in the Courier & Press read. Borries compared moving Bunny out of Mesker Zoo to "Mickey Mouse leaving Disney World." Lloyd said the Bunny debate "is just a symbol of all the problems at the zoo. The zoo is run down and city government has to take some responsibility." Lloyd criticized Borries for his voting record on traffic planning for the Lloyd Expressway and Burkhardt Road, saying a Borries county commissioner vote in 1994 will cost taxpayers $11 million. Borries said he had no crystal ball to predict the future and characterized Lloyd's attack as "negative." Lloyd responded, "I don't think this is a negative campaign at all. I think both our records are fair game." Borries said that Lloyd is looking to the past, not the future. Lloyd said his father would not be pleased to have such an expressway named in his honor. Both candidates promised to work to get I-69 routed through Vanderburgh County. Borries declared at a joint appearance before the Evansville Chamber that he will become "Gov. Frank O'Bannon's favorite mayor." **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:** News-Sentinel presents side-by-side issue contrasts. On sewers, Buskirk favors continuing 10-year, $90 million capacity improvements that she has overseen as head of Public Works Department. Richard favors the current program, but wonders if the city investigated all the alternatives. Both candidates back community-oriented government and policing concepts. Buskirk has called for a citizen review of the Three Rivers Ambulance Authority. Richard has advocated letting the FWFD bid for the services and said TRAA should be evaluated. On economic development, Burkirk said she can "hit the ground running" in January due to her work in the Helmke administration. Richard cited his economic development experience with the Chamber of Commerce, as chairman of the Indiana Human Resources Development Council, and as a partner in a management consulting firm. On crime, Buskirk pledged to continue the COMSTAT program that uses statistics to concentrate crime fighting in specific areas. Both Buskirk and Richard have set a first year crime reduction goal of 20 percent. Richard concentrates his anti-crime emphasis on preventive efforts, like promoting the state's 21s. Century Scholars program. **General Status:** *Leans Buskirk.*

Hobart Mayoral: Republican: Robert Malizzo. **Democrat:** Mayor Linda Buzinec. **1995 Results:** Malinzzo (R), Buzinec (D). **1999 Forecast:** Mazlizzo attacked Buzinec over the city's tax rate, blaming her for "excessive spending" (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Buzinec countered that the budget increases were the result of annual raises for employees. She said she doesn't see how Malizzo could cut the budget unless he laid off employees or cut services Buzinec agreed the tax rate is not satisfactory, but said the annexation of Ross Township created the need for 20 new police and 20 firefighters. Malizzo said, "I lowered taxes 24 percent. Even after hiring all the policemen and firemen that I did, taxes went down." He said Buzinec is paying the city attorney and engineer twice the amount he did. **General Status:** *Leans Buzinec.*

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:** *NUVO*/TeleResearch Poll (386 likely, Sept. 19-20, +/-5) has Gilroy leading 41-36 percent. The

sample had 45 percent Republican, 33 percent Democratic, and 22 percent independent. Of the 18 percent undecided, 44 percent were independents. Of the committed independent votes, 28 percent sided with Peterson and 23 percent with Gilroy. Peterson's fav/unfav among independents was 48/34, compared to 44/44 for Gilroy. Peterson also got 11 percent of the Republican vote. *Indianapolis Star* poll had Peterson leading 40.8 percent to 37.3 percent for Gilroy. Gilroy campaign called *Star's* survey "irresponsible" because of a weighted sample size of 29.7 percent Democrat and 27.8 percent Republican. Gordon Durnil in a Saturday e-mail to supporters said the sample size should be 8 to 10 percent Republican. Sources say the Gilroy campaign tried to get *Star* management to pull the poll - conducted by the Indiana University Center for Survey Research. The Gilroy campaign also protested the *NUVO/* TeleResearch sample, saying a question concerning Gilroy's running for mayor prior to taking her SofS oath was a "push question" just prior to the head-to-head question. HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey stopped the poll on Saturday, and restarted it Sunday with the question deleted. Peterson camp says their internal tracking has them up 2 points; Gilroy says internal tracking has them up by 7. Howey describes the Gilroy campaign in NUVO as "taut with fear, paranoia and, as Hunter Thompson would say, loathing for the news media." Peterson called for an end to the 2 percent club and announced he will create a blind trust for his business interests if elected. Gilroy campaign called that ludicrous. "How can you put real estate holdings in a blind trust?" asked Cam Carter. Gilroy announced "City of Respect" initiative with African-American leaders. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Muncie Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Dan Canan. **Democrat:** Ralph Smith Jr. 1995 Results: Canan (R) 9,718, Carey (D) 6,521. **1999 Forecast:** Smith and Canan agree there will be no "Unigov" in Muncie and Delaware County. "You might as well throw that word away," said Canan. "The reason it works so well in Indianapolis is that the city is almost as large as the county. We don't have that here." Said Smith, "In the long run, neither one is cost-effective." **Status:** *Likely Canan.*

South Bend Mayoral: Republican: Steve Bradley. **Democrat:** Mayor Steve Leucke. **1995 Results:** Kernan (D) 14,309, Waite (R) 3,106. **1999 Forecast:** Charges were dropped against former PD Chief Darrell Gunn in a controversial DUI case. St. Joseph Superior Court Judge Roland Chamblee ruled the state couldn't meet the burden of proof in trial. State Police ruled that there was no cover-up by SBPD in the chief's traffic accident that resulted in the DUI arrest. Gunn's blood alcohol content was taken by an operator not certified for use in criminal proceedings. Bradley has criticized Leucke over taking so long to fill Gunn's position. Councilman David Varner presented a College Football Hall of Fame restructuring plan that could save the city $550,000. Leucke welcomed "thoughtful consideration" from the council. Bradley has attacked Leucke over the possibility of raising taxes to help fund the Hall. **General status:** *Solid Luecke.*

Valparaiso Mayoral: Republican: Councilman Jon Costas. **Democrat:** Mayor David Butterfield. **1995 Results:** Butterfield (D) 3,923, Hefron (R) 2,768. **1999 Forecast:** PD Chief Walt Lamberson sent employees a memo urging them to support Butterfield. The memo also said that Butterfield does not support a merger of VPD and the Porter County Sheriff. Costas told the *Times of Northwest Indiana*, "I think it is inappropriate for department heads to get involved in the politics of an election." Lamberson said, "It is not at all intimidation. It is my opinion of what will happen in the upcoming election." Said Butterfield, "I can't comment on the memo, but I can't imagine that a police officer would feel intimidated." **General Status:** *LEANS BUTTERFIELD.*

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:** Two controversies are swirling around this race: Education and taxes. Price pledged to abolish the ISTEP exams and use the Iowa exam. Fort Wayne Community Schools Supt. Thomas Fowler-Finn called for the immediate suspension of ISTEP

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TICKER TAPE

not accessible to them (Muncie Star Press). Robert Trapp and John Dobelbower said they were told they could copy the lists by hand. Both county chairs acknowledged the charges. "I don't think they have to make that available to just anybody in the public," said Democratic Chair Dennis Tyler. Said GOP Chair George Eastman, "Not just anyone can walk in and say, 'I want a list of registered voters." Brad King of the Indiana Election Commission said that state law allowed counties to decide whether they would distribute computerized voter registration lists.

Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel was one of several GOP chairs to tell the New York Times they preferred Al Gore as the Democratic presidential nominee over Bill Bradley. "I hope Gore's our guy. Gore has just got more baggage than American Tourister."

The Energy Information Agency is projecting a 17 percent increase in natural gas and a 30 percent hike in home heating oil (Elkhart Truth) this coming heating season.

The City of Whiting has asked the Lake County Election Board to cancel the Nov. 2 election. Mayor Robert Bercik and the entire Democratic slate is unop-

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TICKER TAPE

posed (Times of Northwest Indiana). Mayor Robert Bercik said there appears to be no active Republican Party. "I always felt the two-party system was a great system. Hopefully, the people think we've done a good job." Whiting has had only one GOP mayor since 1943, and he changed to the Democrats.

Anyone convicted on a DUI between July 1, 1997, and Jan. 6, 1999, could have those charges erased from their records, thanks to improper language in a new state law. The Gary Post-Tribune reported, "One new sentence in an otherwise age-old state law has defense lawyers who specialize in drunk driving cases poised for action."❖

after it was determined that CTB/McGraw-Hill had incorrectly calibrated some items when comparing Indiana scores to national ones. Supt. Suellen Reed said she was forming a committee to investigate the exam. Prices released campaign flier in Spanish. **General Status:** *Leans O'Bannon.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: Mike Pence, State Rep. Jeff Linder, Andrew Phipps, Brad Steele, Fred Wenger, Bill Fraizer, Luke Messner, David Gethers. **Democrat:** Joe Hogsett, Melanie Fox, Lisa Julian, Bob Rock, Jr., Troy Liggett. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Results:** McIntosh (R) 99,584, Boles (D) 62,426, Federle (L) 2,2[illegible]6. **2000 Forecast:** Hogsett still mulling. Tells CD officials he'll make his decision "sooner rather than later." Hogsett gives no indication which way he's leaning. Democrats to meet on Oct. 2 in New Castle and expect to have Hogsett's decision by then. Three new names have surfaced: Bob Rock Jr., an assistant city attorney in Anderson and son of former LG Bob Rock; Anderson controller Lisa Julian, who was Marc Carmichael's '96 CD campaign treasurer, and Mel Fox of Greensburg, the district's vice chairwoman and a member of the Federal Agriculture Board. Rock is definitely running no matter what Hogsett does. Julian and Fox are awaiting Hogsett's decision. On the GOP side, Centerville attorney David D. Gethers, former deputy prosecutor of Wayne County, entered. "I am bothered that Washington sends us so much money with strings attached," Gethers said (*Muncie Star Press*). Pence released a NRCC Poll (601 R 96-98 primary voters) that shows Pence trailing Hogsett 43-40 in a head-to-head. Linder was about 12 points behind. Pences ID/Fav/Unfav stood at 52/25/9. Hogsett's stood at 79/39/14. Pence leads in every county except Delawage (Wenger) and Shelby (Linder). He finished second in both. An NRCC poll by Tarrance Group has the district's R/D split at 44/38. Bush leads Gore 55-34 percent. Pence told HPR, "We will be making an announcement at the end of the year. We are extremely encouraged by these numbers." CD Chair Virgil Scheidt said, "Come February, you will see this list dwindle dramatically. If Mike Pence gets into this, it will change the whole thing" (*Star Press*). **General Status:** *TOSSUP.*

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