THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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Fort Wayne mayor's race goes into tossup

Richard closes gap on GOP's Buskirk

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

Democrat Graham Richard has dramatically closed the gap on his Fort Wayne mayoral opponent, Linda Buskirk.

HPR has learned that two internal polls - one Democratic and the other Republican - show Richard has closed what was once a 24-point gap to within 1 to 6 points.

Ironically, the Democratic numbers have Richard down by six, while tracking for Republican City Council candidates has Buskirk leading 44-43.

The tightening of the Fort Wayne mayoral races represents a looming trifecta in the establishment of regional power in Indiana. Mayoral races in Evansville and Indianapolis are already dead heats. The results in these three open seats on Nov. 2 have the potential to create a generational power shift in the state as well as establish the winners as rising stars. Should one party sweep all three races, that would set a distinct momentum going into the critical 2000 elections.

The situation in Fort Wayne has been the most surprising development of the fall campaign and represents the second consecutive election sequence where a race has dramatically tightened up.

At the beginning of the year, former Allen County Sheriff Joe Squadrito maintained a 27-point lead over Buskirk. But by late April, a TeleResearch poll showed that Buskirk had drawn within the statistical margin of error. Buskirk later went on to defeat Squadrito, 52-48 percent, in what was considered to be the biggest upset of the primary campaign season. She attributed that win to the Helmke

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'I guess now I know why dynasties never die gracefully..."

- Bart Peterson, Indianapolis Democratic mayoral nominee, reacting to Sue Anne Gilroy's aggressive ad campaign, to the Indianapolis Star

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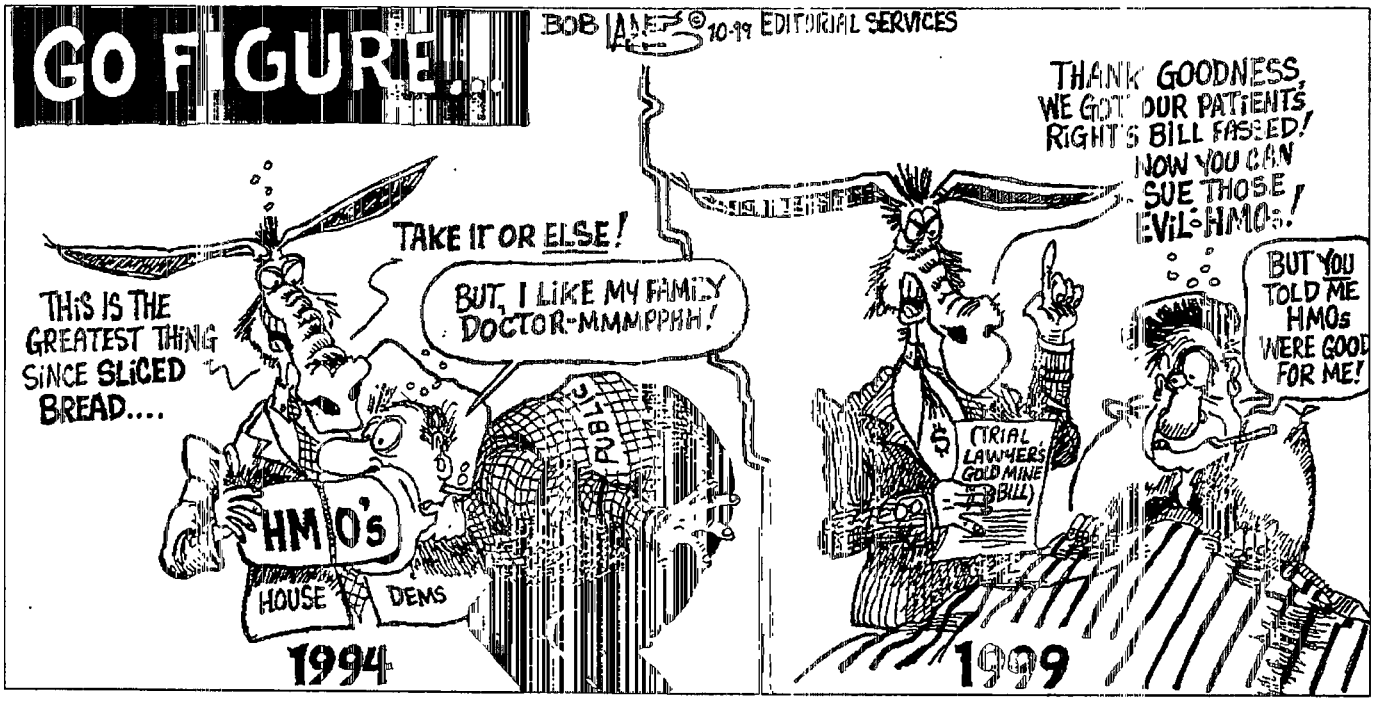
We're in Our Sixth Year!



TICKER TAPE

State Rep. Tim Fesko, R-Munster, resigned his 15th HD seat, citing family and business c ncerns (Gary Post-Tribune). Fesko will support Schererville Town Judge Daniel Dumezich as his replacement. Fesko's move has state Democrats believing that the seat now comes into play in 2000. Said Fesko, "THis is my fifth term and I have spent just one term in the majority. To really be an effective legislator and to accomplish things, y u need to be in the majority. I have felt frustrated. That weighed heavily." Said State Rep. Chester Dobis, "He was probably the only voice in the Republican Party, House and Senate, that would speak up for Lake County."

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Fort Wayne, *from page 1*

organization kicking in, including intense campaigning within neighborhood organizations.

Richard began the post-primary season with a $120,000 cash advantage, but Buskirk held commanding leads throughout the summer and early fall. Two weeks ago, a *Journal Gazette* poll had Buskirk up 41-25 percent. Then last week, a WPTA-TV Poll revealed the trending advantage toward Richard, with Buskirk leading Richard 35-28.

Democratic sources tell HPR that Richard probably still has a commanding cash advantage, has an effective neighborhood organization, a large volunteer network, an extensive direct mail strategy and GOTV plan. "It isn't a coincidence that this race started tightening up when it did," one Democratic sources said. "This is the time of year when people begin paying attention to campaigns."

Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine told HPR that he expected the race to tighten up. Democrats acknowledge that the Allen County GOP organization has maintained a technolcgical advantage that has been absent in other party cells, such as Marion County. Thus, the Democats always felt they had a legitimate shot at retaining Evansville and picking off Indianapolis. Fort Wayne was their project.

There are indications that the Fort Wayne race will get brutal, just as it did in the 1987 donnybrook between Paul Helmke and Winfield Moses. In that race, the Republican county prosecutor issued a statement saying Moses' brother was under investigation in a homicide. Moses' polling number collapsed overnight. He lost and his brother was never charged in the case.

Sources in both parties tell HPR that several elements could unfold in the next several days that could impact this race. One is that several FWPD officers are about to be indicted.

Another is an alleged reworked loan payment on a failed project Richard had with the city which will likely surface later this week. The sources say an 11th-hour deal was arranged between Richard and outgoing Mayor Moses that gave the Democratic business leader a longer repayment period.

A police scandal with indictments would be a dangerous development for

HPR Pre-Election Briefing Registration Info

Here is registration information for the four Howey Political Report Pre-Election Briefings:

Oct. 20 - South Bend Mariott, 123 N. St. Joseph St., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., *Sponsors:* Baker & Daniels Law Office, Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County. *Local panelist:* Jack Colwell of the South Bend Tribune. *Reservation deadline:* Oct. 15. *Cost:* $18.

Oct. 21 - Greater Fort Wayne Area Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. *Sponsor:* Baker & Daniels Law Office. *Local panelists:* John Okeson and Bob Lang. *Reservation deadline:* Oct. 15 *Cost:* $18.

Oct. 27 - Columbia Club, Indianapolis - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. *Sponsors*: Baker & Daniels, NUVO Newsweekly, Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. *Local panelist:* Ronald Gifford. *Reservation deadline:* Oct. 22. *Cost:* $18.

Oct. 28 - Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. *Sponsors:* Baker & Daniels, Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company, American General Finance, MECC. *Local panelist:* Miriam Dant. *Reservation deadline:* Oct. 22. *Cost:* $18.

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Buskirk. Any type of police scandal can be damaging to the party in power, as Indianapolis mayors Richard Lugar and Stephen Goldsmith realized in 1974 and 1996.

HPR/TeleResearch will be conducting a survey on the Fort Wayne mayoral race this weekend. It will be unveiled at the HPR '99 Briefing at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, at the Greater Fort Wayne Area Chamber of Commerce, and in the Oct. 21 edition of HPR.

HPR/TeleResearch will be conducting surveys in South Bend on Oct. 14-15 prior to the Oct. 20 briefing at the South Bend Marriott; Oct. 23-24 for the Indianapolis Briefing at the Columbia Club on Oct. 27; and Oct. 21-22 in Evansville prior to the Oct. 28 Briefing at the Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce. Registration information is listed above. ❖

TICKER TAPE

Dan Quayle appeared on Late Show with David Letterman on CBS last week. "Maybe you don't know this, but over the years I've actually told a lot of jokes about you," said Letterman, who grew up in the Broad Ripple area of Indianapolis. Quayle responded, "No hard feelings, Dave, but there's one thing I've got to say: Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!" Letterman later said, "You've got to be nuts to come here." Quayle received a thunderous ovation when he said, "I'm here for my apology." Letterman asked Quayle, "So, did you inhale?" Said Quayle, "I was a Pabst Blue Ribbon guy." Letterman asked about the "potato thing" and Quayle reminded his host that "potatoe" was misspelled on a card. "I just thought it was creative spelling," Quayle said. And Letterman asked Quayle if he would consider a spot on George W. Bush's ticket in 2000. "I've been there, done that," Quayle said. "I don't want to get back on your show as often as I was."

The Bloomington Herald-Times reports that 1,400 General Electric jobs are nervously awaiting whether their jobs will be transferred to Mexico. GE announced on Sept. 8 that it would invest $100 million in its side-by-side refridgerator factory in Bloomington, but

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that it might move 1,400 out the 3,200 person workforce to Mexico. Reported the Herald-Times, "As GE management and labor leaders negotiate, the clock is winding down on a 45-day formal negotiation period set to end in two weeks."

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh testified before a House panel on his Responsible Fatherhood Act. Bayh's bill would provide states with grant money for community-based fatherhood programs, set up a national information clearing house and fund a public education campaign. "The irony in America's unprecedented economic prosperity is that many Americans still feel the country is on the wrong track, that there is a deterioration of values in our society," Bayh said. "There seems to be a fraying of the social fabric and many indicators point to the increase in absentee fathers as the cause." Its estimated cost is $50 million a year. Reps. Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., and Ben Cardin, D-Md., have authored similar legislation in the House.

Evansville Mayor Frank McDonald II asked Gov. Frank O'Bannon to delay state construction work on the Lloyd Expressway at Fulton Avenue. The reason? It would have interrupted the annual West Side Nut Club Fall Festival (Evansville Courier &

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David McIntosh (Part II)

Gubernatorial candidate talks about education and 2000 politics

This second part of HPR Publisher Brian Howey's conversation concludes our benchmark sequence of the 2000 gubernatorial campaign. To review HPR's three interviews with U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, Republican John Price, and Gov. O'Bannon, go to our HPR Interview button at: *www.howeypolitics.com*

HPR: The kids of Indiana have just taken the ISTEP test and 25 percent of the Class of 2000 hasn't passed its Graduation Qualifying Exam. At what percentage do you see that as becoming a political crisis?

McIntosh: To me it's unacceptable that even one child isn't getting a great education. I mean, the crisis starts when you have 40 and 50 percent of your children in third grade not knowing how to read and do math. That carries all through the social promotion and then in the 10th grade 40 and 50 percent of them can't do basic math and English for the 9th grade level and nothing happens. So those children keep getting bumped up and up and up. So now ISTEP is giving them five bites at the apple to pass that and still it shows the problem in the system that we've only been able to get half of them through after two more years. I think what the ISTEP is forcing us to recognize is that our education system is not doing what's right for children. That's what we have to remember in there is not to go back and say, "Let's get rid of the test" if we don't like the results. We can fix it and make a better test, but we have to have accountability in there to show that the system is working to give every child the best education. To say to them, "We're going to make sure you know what you need to know to progress on to fourth grade." Or, "We're going to have you spend time in summer school and remediation," and not automatically passing people on to the next grade level. That's the tough approach we need. It is the tough love approach. It says we have to do what's right for our children.

HPR: What will be the hallmark of a McIntosh plan to get SATs up and ISTEPs passed?

McIntosh: The first and most important one will be in returning responsibility to the teachers to be able to teach in the classroom. Free them up from paperwork and regulations, free them up from the threat of lawsuits, and give them the resources they need to be able to teach children in their class. Back them up when they have to have discipline. When a child has to be removed from the class, find an alternative class structure. And then, frankly, pay them better when they do a good job and show improvement in their class. Second will be to try in failed areas where schools have 10 to 15 to 20 percent passage rate. We have to try anything to see if it works. Charter schools, scholarships for the students, extra funding to get remedial education. I think it's key that we have to say to those parents and those children, "We're not going to let one day go without trying something that is our very best to make sure you get a great education.

HPR: Assess the political environment as we nudge closer to the 2000 election cycle. Who do you think is going to be the Democratic presidential nominee?

McIntosh: Overall, the national environment looks very good for Republicans in Indiana. There is a lot of excitement about George W. Bush. It looks like he is going to be our nominee. That will help with turnout, build excitement and help with volunteers. On the Democratic side, up until the last few

weeks I was saying it's going to be Al Gore, don't worry about it. Now it looks like there's going to be a credible challenge by Bradley. It's probably too hard to tell. But if you had to pick the odds, Al Gore still has the advantage because he's the institutional candidate. Much like Jimmy Carter fended off the liberal challenge from Ted Kennedy, I think Al Gore will most likely be able to do that from Bill Bradley. But anything could happen between now and next May.

HPR: How do you assess the Indiana political climate?

McIntosh: In Indiana, what's happening is that momentum nationally is getting people excited at the grassroots level and we're seeing a lot of people who thought, "Well, we can't really do anything to change things in Indiana." They're telling me, at least, "David, we're delighted you're running for governor because we now think we have a chance to win." I told them I wouldn't be in this unless I thought I could win. I realize it is a tough, competitive race that will take a lot of very hard work. But the dynamic has changed to make it a wide open race for governor. I think the desire for change will also help us there. There's that natural cycle to want to change from President Clinton to a Republican at the national level. The same thing in Indiana. And then the final factor that makes it an exciting year for us is that Dick Lugar will be on the ticket and relatively without a strong opponent. He is one of those wonderful politicians who runs as a team. Back in 1994 when I was running, we had Lugar-McIntosh signs all over the district. He did that type of thing all over the state. I fully expect he'll do that after the primary in a lot of races across Indiana. That's a big help. It says here's somebody we know who has done great things for Indiana and we know and we trust him and his judgment. He has high standards for who he supports and that will then provide that extra push for candidates.

HPR: Anything you'd like to touch on that I didn't bring up?

McIntosh: Our campaign is only just a couple of months old. For me the excitement gets to be even more and more. We had the wonderful kickoff at the Colts facility. We've been raising a lot of money. People have called in and sent in cards to volunteer. Ruthie and I were talking about it the other day: It's an exciting time for us. It's a lot of hard work. We come back on the weekends and travel. Like last weekend we were down in New Albany campaigning for the mayor's candidate, in Bedford, and then back up to Muncie. The weekend before we were traveling in Northern Indiana. The excitement is there. It feels a lot like '94 and it has us energized.

HPR: Put the gender gap in perspective from your Republican viewpoint. Do you see a female on either the national or state tickets?

McIntosh: The question of women voters isn't simply reduced down to a question of women candidates, as we're now seeing in a lot of different races. Based on my experience in my district, I have always won a majority of women voters. And it's been a majority about equal to the men voting in my district for me. Because I talk about things important to them: education, making our schools the best, eliminating the marriage penalty that penalizes working women. Making sure we can have a society where their children are safe and have moral values. To women voters a lot depends on what message there is.

HPR: What is the future of your legislation to end the marriage penalty?

McIntosh: You saw all the Democratic proposals mention they wanted to eliminate the marriage penalty. We'll either reach a compromise or we'll split out the bill and that one will likely be signed by the President and he'll oppose some of the others. But I'm still optimistic we'll be able to get that done. I'm disappointed we didn't have the President sign the bill the first time, but we'll keep working on it. We're gaining more supporters every time the tax bill comes up. ❖

TICKER TAPE

Press). Said McDonald, "I didn't hesitate at all to make the first call."

Former senator Dan Coats formally initiated the Foundation for American Renewal in partnership with the Indianapolis-based Hudson Institute. He said the foundation "is dedicated to promoting the civic, private, religious, and charitable programs that change the lives of individuals - rebuilding America from the ground up - one life at a time." Coats added, "I am committed to supporting programs that work. Many of these programs are faith-based initiatives, which utilize caring volunteers to save families and transform lives."

Joanee M. Sanders has been appointed by Marion County Democratic Chairman Steve Laudig to fill the ballot position of the late Councilor Paul Jones, who died last month. Sanders serves as the director of the Indiana AFL-CIO Labor Institute.

Lisa Kobe has taken a leave of absence from Cinergy and has joined the Indiana Republicans to assist in communications.

Former labor leader John Neal of Muncie has sued a former police officer over a $25,000 check that bounced (Muncie Star Press). The

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newspaper described the officer, Herbert Holding, as "politically connected." Neal alleges he lent Holding $25,000 on April 2 and was to be repaid on May 2. A May 28 check for that amount bounced. Holding was a Delaware County sheriff officer who was sentenced to four years in prison back in 1988 for his part in a marijuana smuggling operation. Neal, former head of Teamsters Local 135, was indicted last February on charges of illegal gambling and money laundering.

Evansville police discovered $22,000 worth of methamphetamine after responding to a burglary call last week. Indianapolis Democratic mayoral nominee Bart Peterson has been warning of a looming methamphetamine epidemic in his campaign against Sue Anne Gilroy.

Opponents of the I-69 new terrain route - environmentalists, farmers, and Wabash Valley business interests - rallied against the project last week and urged Gov. Frank O'Bannon to drop plans for the extension between Indianapolis and Evansville. "All these people are normally at each other like cats and dogs," said Alexander Ewing, attorney for the Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest. "If we are going to have this kind of

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:** Second debate was described by *Courier & Press'* Herb Marynell: "Borries and Lloyd, both hammering at their differences, appeared closer on many issues during their second televised debate." Lloyd attacked Borries as a "career politician" who has "supported special interests" and has a record of "throwing money at problems." Borries countered that Lloyd "distorts the record" and that the public is "sick of negative campaigning." When Lloyd hammered away at Borries' tenure as a county commissioner, Borries responded, "It's unfortunate you want to talk again about the past and not the future." Lloyd criticized Borries' $10 million Mesker Zoo plan. Lloyd said of a Borries plan using higher admission charges to pay off the bond: "The math on it doesn't work." Borries' radio ad alleges that Lloyd makes $409 an hour as a Vanderburgh County Councilman. "If Lloyd's a fiscal watchdog, he's barking up the wrong tree. Don't get bitten in your pocketbook by the $409-an-hour Lloyd Junior." The Democrat calculated that hourly amount from Lloyd's $14,740 salary as a councilman and the number of council meetings required by state statute. Vanderburgh GOP Chairman Jeff Hatfield responded, saying Borries has made more than $1 million from taxpayers. since 1980. Lloyd told HPR, "The momentum is on my side. At the West Side Fall Festival I received good response in a traditional Democrat area." HPR/TeleResearch will be in the field Oct. 21-22 and will present results at the Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 28. **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:** This race has dramatically tightened. Fort Wayne mayoral politics has historically not been for the faint of heart. Watch for the potential fireworks coming this week after both sides lashed out at each other last week. HPR/TeleResearch will be in the field on Oct. 16-17 to monitor change at the Fort Wayne HPR '99 Briefing. In second debate at Bishop Luers HS, Richard pounded away at the Helmke administration. Jonathon Maze of the *News-Sentinel* reported, "Richard made pointed attacks against the current administration, while Buskirk shifted between defending the job she's done as public works director and setting herself apart from Helmke." Said Buskirk, "I'm not the vice mayor. I'm Linda Buskirk. I'm my own person." Richard attacked Buskirk for purchasing a new asphalt system that many believe is obsolete. Buskirk explained how her leadership in the Street Department has made it more efficient. Richard accused Buskirk of hiring a Colorado-based consultant when his own TQM Network could have provided local help. Horse Race sees real momentum trending toward Richard, who may have a significant money advantage. Republicans probably have an organizational advantage. Key statistic: Remember Journal Gazette Poll that had 5 percent who would refuse to vote for a female mayoral candidate. In a close election, that could hurt..**General Status:** *TOSSUP.*

Hammond Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Duane Dedelow. **Democrat:** Tom Philpot. **1995 Results:** Dedelow (R) 11,099, Philpot (D) 10,578. **1999 Forecast:** Democrats are pressing for a victory here with Gov. and Mrs. O'Bannon, Sen. Bayh, LG Joe Kernan, AG Jeff Modisett and Chairman Robin Winston to tap to campaign for Philpot. Republicans are confident they can keep Dedelow going. Dedelow recently met with Democratic mayors King, Pastrick and Lake County Democratic Chairman Steve Stigich to discuss tax reassessments. **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:** Gilroy

went on the attack, first with an ad calling The Peterson Plan "risky" and likely to raise taxes. Then on Tuesday, a TV ad featuring Mayor Goldsmith has him saying, "It's a costly plan that would turn the city in the wrong direction." That could be the most decisive make-or-break move of the campaign. Recent *NUVO* and *Star* polls show Goldsmith's public approval rating is in the 60th percentile. But he's not on the ballot and people know it. President Clinton's approval rating is also high, but only a fool would predict he could win re-election. Goldsmith's political touch has been a thin one lately. In 1995 he only polled 58 percent against a weak, underfunded candidate. Goldsmith lost Marion County in 1996 against O'Bannon. Gilroy changed her media team - taking it away from Melissa Martin (Goldsmith's ex-wife). Gilroy complained during debate that Peterson Plan is 95-pages long. Peterson told TV viewers that his plan will allow them to hold him accountable. Gilroy put Peterson Plan on her website and stamped "another plan" over his proposals. The Democrat denied that plan will cause tax hikes. As a Bayhphile, he hardly has a reputation for raising taxes. When WRTV's Jack Rinehart asked how Peterson can afford 200 new cops and all the people they will arrest, he responded by saying the 200 community policement will be there to prevent crime. He noted Sheriff Cottey's recent flooding of an eastside neighborhood with sheriff deputies dramatically reduced crime. Peterson pledged during WRTV and WTHR debates to run a positive campaign. His internal polling and consultants are telling him to stay the course. *Indianapolis Star* and local TV stations identify Gilroy for starting a "negative advertising" war. HPR's Howey in NUVO wrote that Gilroy's ads aren't negative - that she delivers criticism of a legitimate issue in person. They are contrasting, aggressive ads, not negative. Peterson may have to respond similarly. Peterson offered up classic quote, telling the *Star*, "'I guess now I know why dynasties never die gracefully." Horning began his small TV ad campaign on WTHR Tuesday night, standing near the White River and promising to clean it up without having taxpayers paying for past Republican and Democratic mistakes. HPR/TeleResearch will be in the field Oct. 23-24 and will report latest poll on this race at 11 a.m. Oct. 27 at the Columbia Club. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Muncie Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Dan Canan. **Democrat:** Ralph "Jigger" Smith Jr. **1995 Results:** Canan (R) 9,718, Carey (D) 6,521. **1999 Forecast:** Some 500 Democrats showed up for a J-J Dinner in Muncie - that's a lot for the recently divided Delaware County Democrats. "We are united Democrats and we are alive and well in Delaware County," said new party chairman Dennis Tyler. Prior to Gov. O'Bannon's speech, Ball State Prof. John Rouse took to the lectern and recounted his experience as a child viewing FDR's body. "When I see Jigger, I think of Roosevelt," Rouse said. Smith and Rouse then led a chant: "Democrats are coming home - spread the word!" (*Muncie Star Press*). A committee of current and retired police voted to endorse Canan, but PAC members instead voted to endorse Smith, who has advocated the removal of MPD Chief Joe Winkle. PAC President Joe Todd said, "What I think happened is they voted right down party lines. In my view, Canan deserved the endorsement." Canan reacted: "Political things like that happen. I understand it." Horse Race sees this tightening up a bit, but more as a reaction to the J-J turnout and not so much the police PAC endorsement. We're moving this from "solid" to likely and will keep a keen eye on this race. **General status:** *LIKELY CANAN.*

New Albany Mayoral: Republican: City Clerk Regina Overton. **Democrat:** Mayor Doug England. **1995 Results:** England 6,845, Real (R) 5,886. **1999 Forecast:** Republicans say tracking shows this race is in a dead heat. Prosecutor delays action on England, saying she needs more information. Both parties are disputing whether indictments could occur prior to the election. Democrats are saying the prosecutor won't file any charges until after the election. Other Democrats tell HPR that England won't face charges. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

INDIANA 2000 RACES

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, John R. Price. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **1996 results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** George Witwer exited the Republican race and endorsed McIntosh. "David

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TICKER TAPE

organization, I think we're going to win this fight." Said Rod Henry, president of the Greater Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, "It is not about Terre Haute vs. Evansville. Yes, we are thinking of self-preservation. But we want I-69 to happen. From a businessman's perspective, how can you support something that costs a half billion more and only saves a few minutes of travel time."

People have pumped more than $5.5 billion into the Hoosier Lottery since it debuted on Oct. 13, 1989 (Lesley Stedman, Journal Gazette). It has created 280 millionaires and sent more than $1.6 billion into state coffers. "The lottery has provided a lot of benefits to Hoosiers," said State Sen. Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, who voted for the lottery. Said Fort Wayne area retailer Chuck Bair, "You can look at the lottery as your friend or your foe. It's very labor intensive. It holds up a lot of your other gas customers or your single pop customers. The amount of people who can't afford to play - that surprises me. That's frightening. It almost makes me feel bad." Lottery opponent Paul Oakes said, "Thirty-one percent of all the lottery revenue comes from people at the povery level and below. It's an investment scheme and it's the worst investment you

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can do."

A proposal to raise the pay of Indianapolis City-County councilors by 14 percent just a month before the election brought this response from its sponsor, Carlton Curry: "It's the honest thing to do. If I get beat for being honest, so be it." The Indianapolis Star's Doug Sword said of the proposal: "It could be seen as either political courage or insanity to hear the proposal just 21 days before the Nov. 2 election - with plans to bring it to a final council vote just 15 days before voters go to the polls."

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and I grew up together. He's a good man and will make a strong governor. We believe in the same things, and he is our best shot at winning," said Witwer (*Journal Gazette*) as he joined McIntosh on a four-city fly-around. McIntosh said, "The key thing for us right now is working very hard in Fort Wayne, South Bend and Southern Indiana, where I'm not as well known." Said Price, "I've been expecting this for some time, and I think it helps me." Another nick in the O'Bannon administration is under way, this one with a potentially embarrassing sex/cocaine scandal brewing around ex-Excise Police Supt. Gene Honneycutt. There could be video tape of Honeycutt receiving oral sex from a stripper. A Marion County grand jury is investigating whether Honeycutt received free drinks, food and sex from strippers at Brad's Gold Club and Brad's Brass Flamingo in Indianapolis. Honeycutt is alleged to have set up a special excise unit that led to different treatment for the Brad Hirst-owned strip clubs. Honeycutt's alleged improprieties occurred after an Excise officer was arrested on a cocaine charge. O'Bannon reacted swiftly, with Honeycutt and the head of the Indiana ABC resigning. John Hanley is not under investigation but assumed responsibility after O'Bannon accepted his resignation Tuesday. O'Bannon said he did not request Hanley's resignation. Initial reaction and public sentiment is that O'Bannon has moved swiftly and expressed proper indignation on the clouds gathering over State Excise Police. The governor saw how Mayor Goldsmith's reaction to the Meridian Street Police riot had a devastating impact on the Republican's 1996 gubernatorial campaign. Tuesday afternoon, O'Bannon appointed Glenn Lawrence to head the ABC and told WRTV, "We're going to make this a clean break here." Having said that, a police scandal is political poison that can have dire impact - even if the officeholder handles it adroitly. A key concern for O'Bannon is that there has been a string of controversies this year: the teacher's retirement fund transfer snafu, a very public showdown with Indiana State Police over salaries, Muscatatuck Developmental Center decertification, the loss of full-day kindergarten at the end of the General Assembly, and now big property tax increases in base counties like Lake, Monroe and Harrison. Isolated, none of those would have been a big deal. But there's been a controversy flaring up every couple of months. O'Bannon would have enjoyed nothing better than getting through the end of the year with a great surplus report in December and without a police scandal and property tax problems. In Muncie, O'Bannon told 500 Delaware County Democrats at a J-J Dinner, "Politics is not about flexing muscle to get power. Helping people - that's why we're Democrats." O'Bannon renewed his call for full-day kindergarten. He spoke on his "Character Counts" initiative at Floyds Knobs and Charlestown. McIntosh endorsed GW Bush for president. **General Status:** *Leans O'Bannon.*

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