
The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“So, Evan, what are you running for?”

- Phil Schermerhorn, as an *Elkhart Truth* reporter, to young Evan Bayh in 1984 as he stumped for gubernatorial candidate Wayne Townsend. Schermerhorn died on Sept. 5, 2002

Cowboy President rides into Indiana

Chocola gets bucks, but not exposure

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in South Bend
And **MARK SCHOEFF JR.** in Washington

The cowboy President -- George W. Bush -- came to Indiana in his gleaming Air Force One Thursday on the eve of the most critical diplomatic thrust of his lifetime.

While President Bush paid lip service to the staggering American economy, and began laying the groundwork for a war with Iraq, the man he ostensibly came to help, 2nd CD Republican Chris Chocola, was almost an afterthought.

Chocola (or a man who appeared to look like him) was seen deplaning with Bush early Thursday afternoon, but the \$250-a-plate dinner where he raised \$650,000 for Chocola and Indiana Republicans, was a relatively secretive affair. It was a sharp departure from past presidential campaign forays when the candidate was front stage center. We can still hear President Nixon imploring on behalf of U.S. Rep. A. Ross Adair in 1970 in Fort Wayne, “We want him back,” or President Clinton chumming it up with Rep. Julia Carson in 2000 at the Indiana Fairgrounds.

In contrast, not only were there no main event photo ops with Chocola, but there were no Chocola banners, placards or even a statement from the candidate at the airport. If Mike Deaver were paying attention, he’d be wincing.

White House political wizards Karl Rove and Ken Mellman, with their president buoyed by lofty 66 percent approval ratings in the latest Gallup Poll, are probably thinking too much. Their arrogance could betray this president some day should the dynamic change.

The president’s chief speech writer -- former Dan Coats aide Mark Gerson -- once said their key to scripting

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GALLUP HAS BUSH AT 66 PERCENT: The latest USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll shows "President Bush's approval rating is steady at 66% in the poll of 1,003 adults, conducted Monday-Wednesday. The margin of error was +/-3 percentage points. The margin for other questions ranged from +/-3 to +/-5 percentage points. An ABC News/Nightline poll of 504 adults, conducted on August 29 (+/-4.5%), shows: 52% approve "of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq and Saddam Hussein"; 36% disapprove; 12% had no opinion. 56% favor "having US forces take military action against Iraq to force Saddam Hussein from power"; 34% were opposed; 10% had no opinion.

LUGAR SAYS BUSH NEEDS TO MAKE JUDGMENT ON IRAQ: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar is not satisfied that the Bush administration has made a case for a preemptive strike on Iraq's Saddam Hussein. Speaking on CNN's Late Edition Sunday, the Indiana Republican said "[Bush] really has to give us the assurance. He has to make the decisions" before implementing such "an unusual foreign policy gesture."

BUSH'S THIRD STOP IN SOUTH BEND: Thursday's

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George W. Bush's oratory is to capture his "West Texas directness." That kind of cowboy ethos served him well when he was rallying the United States in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. But one year later, he is facing an entirely new challenge. He's preparing his country -- and the world -- for war. This effort requires East Coast nuance, which is surely part of his character, if he's inherited any of his dad's genes.

West Texas banter

On Thursday in South Bend, Hoosiers heard some of that.

"We have a chance the enemy has given us," Bush said in his South Bend Regional Airport speech. "They woke up a mighty country. We'll not only defend ourselves, but we'll lead for a more peaceful tomorrow. I want you to tell your children -- they hear all the talk. They hear all the speculation. They hear the talk for thousands of hours by so-called experts babbling away about this, that and the other. But the true policy of this government is to achieve peace for generations to come. And at home the enemy hit us, and they awakened the spirit."

"I want the American people to fully understand all the consequences," Bush said. "That is why there is a debate here nationally. That is why there is going to be a lot of discussion."

East Coast nuance

After the president began preparing the American people, he turned his attention to our reluctant friends across the world. Bush said, "Sept. 11 taught us a lesson we must take seriously. We must understand the possibilities of what can happen in a war of the 21st Century. That's why I started a dialogue yesterday on another threat to America. A dialogue about Saddam Hussein.

"I want to assure you; I want the American people to fully understand all the consequences. That's why we'll have a debate here nationally. There will be a lot of discussion. That's why I've asked Congress be a part of the deliberations. That's why there will be open hearings. That's why members of my administration will testify. That's why we'll share information with the American people as much as we possibly can."

Bush tried to articulate his coming

attempts to persuade other world leaders besides British Prime Minister Tony Blair. "I'll be meeting with Prime Minister Blair on Saturday; Prime Minister Chretien on Sunday," he said. "I'll be talking with President Putin and Premier Jiang and President Chirac tomorrow. I'll talk about the need for freedom-loving countries to deal with threats today before they become credibly serious horrors. I believe we owe that to our children. Some things are certain, however. I cannot believe the world will allow one of the world's worst leaders to hold America blackmail; to threaten America, to threaten our peace and to threaten our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons."

Bush also tried to prepare Americans for a long war. He told the audience the war would not be over soon, either in Afghanistan or in Iraq. It's not like wars in the past, and it will require serious dedication. "I believe this struggle is going to go on for a long time. We're not quitting freedom and they're probably not going to quit hating us," Bush said.

Not bigger than his office

Bush must realize that his post-Sept. 11 leadership and subsequent high poll ratings have not made him bigger than his office. People are giving him the benefit of the doubt because he is a political behemoth. He must earn their trust and continue to demonstrate that he knows what he is doing. He needs to remember that no one is giving him a leadership blank check.

For instance, consider the political trouble that he has encountered in recent months. His numbers have been headed south, albeit slowly, and the Democrats have been able to gain traction on domestic issues such as corporate accountability and Social Security reform (or lack thereof). In the year since terrorists rammed airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Bush's dimensions have steadily shrunk from their the Olympic

proportions achieved immediately following the attacks. This means Bush cannot take on the world alone. He needs allies.

His vow to gain the support of Congress and the United Nations for an assault on Iraq must involve more than bowling over each body with the force of American will. He must listen and absorb the advice and counsel of friends and foe alike. Maybe there's even something to consider in Germany's opposition to moving on Iraq. It's not a U.N. Security Council member, but has been a steadfast U.S. ally over the past 57 years.

The upper hand (for now)

This week in this month, Republicans seem to be holding the upper political hand. As Chuck Todd of the *National Journal* wrote earlier this week, "There are four reasons why momentum for the midterm elections has swung back to the GOP -- Iraq, Iraq, Iraq and Iraq. The topic of the day is Iraq -- not Halliburton, not Harken, not WorldCom, not Enron -- essentially none of the issues Democrats need on the front page to win in November. The biggest reason for that shift: the free media's current obsession over Iraq. The national media loves controversy within a president's administration. And Iraq has delivered."

No one doubts Bush's fundamental goal: ridding the world of an Iraqi regime that possesses weapons of mass destruction and a leader who is likely to use them. But if this has been the president's top priority for several months -- perhaps even before Sept. 11 -- then why didn't he prioritize it and start building a worldwide coalition against Iraq from the beginning? It seems that generating support for the effort has been an afterthought, something he's almost been forced to do.

The critical question is, will voters be feeling their wallets when they go to the polls in November?

Or will they be voting to the beat of war drums? ❖

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visit by President Bush was his third trip to South Bend in three years. He gave the commencement address at the University of Notre Dame in May 2001, and made a brief stop at the airport during the 2000 presidential campaign.

Thursday's event, which cost \$250 to attend and \$4,000 to have a picture taken with the president, raised more than \$650,000 for Chocola and the state Republican Party, party officials said.

KITTLE DENOUNCES ROEMER: Indiana Republican Party State Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. issued the following statement in response to remarks from U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer regarding President Bush's visit to South Bend: "Congressman Roemer's criticism of President Bush sounds like a desperate ploy to distract voters and elect Indiana Democrats who in fact lack a positive agenda and vision for the Hoosier state and for America."

BUSH DRAWS PROTESTERS: Several hundred protesters rallied at a park across the St. Joseph River from the Century Center, where Bush attended a fundraiser. The rally was sponsored by the AFL-CIO and attended by United Auto Worker members, steel workers and ironworkers

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and environmentalists. Many carried signs, with sayings such as: "Love your neighbor," "Use the U.N." and "No war with Iraq" (Associated Press). At the union rally, Democrat Jill Long Thompson told the crowd that the differences between her and Chocola are clear on many issues, including Social Security and trade. She also pointed out the amount of money the Bush administration has helped him raise. "He's got the money, but I've got you," she said.

REPUBLICANS KNOCKED OFF BALLOT: In an evenly split party-line vote, the Indiana Election Commission decided Thursday that three Southwestern Indiana Republican candidates for the Legislature will not be on the 2002 ballot (Jennifer Whitson, Evansville Courier & Press). Posey County Democratic Party Chairman Trent VanHaften and Vanderburgh County Democratic Party Treasurer Bill Bennett filed challenges against three candidates in July: Dianna Alvey of Wadesville, who was slated to run against Sen. Larry Lutz, D-Evansville; Dan Hostettler of St. Philip, who planned to run against Rep. Jonathan Weinzapfel, D-Evansville; and Ken Hughes of Newburgh, who was up against Rep. Brian Hasler, D-Evansville. All three Republican contenders were added to the ballot

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Andrew, Queisser make sense of Sept. 11

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Former Indiana and national Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew and his partner, Brad Queisser, were to have flown on Flight 77 that slammed into the Pentagon last Sept. 11, but they changed plans the day before. HPR talked to the pair about Flight 77, how it changed their lives, and where America stands now.

HPR: How did you miss Flight 77?

Andrew: Actually, Brad's the one who plans all the trips.

Queisser: Joe and I were due in Los Angeles for a business meeting. We had spent an enormous amount of time planning. It was my recommendation to Joe that we needed more time to lock down the schedule and at the last minute -- late the evening before -- Joe concurred and we moved the flight to some-

where early in the afternoon. Coming into the office the next morning, Joe had seen on television the first plane hit the World Trade Center and I showed up a little late and saw the second plane. It didn't impact me for 24 to 48 hours after that. I was still focused on getting us to Los Angeles.

Andrew: Both flights had hit the World Trade towers and Brad and I were still focused on if our flights were going to go. The towers still hadn't fallen and we were focused on how we were going to get to LA. I didn't realize the impact immediately. I felt the airports certainly wouldn't be shut down; the U.S. government wouldn't cave in to terrorists.

Queisser: One of the individuals we were meeting with in Los Angeles knew the original flight we were supposed to be on. They realized it, were trying to desperately reach us and contacted an Indianapolis television station. All the phones were jammed. There was a majority of the day on 9/11 that no one actually knew whether we were on the plane or not. It didn't really sink in to us until the

next day.

Andrew: Bottom line is we weren't on that flight and there were a lot of great Americans who were. To say we participated in the tragedy at all is a gross overstatement. We watched it on TV like everyone else.

HPR: Having a near miss causes you to reflect on your lives.

Queisser: Being out here in Washington, D.C., with our office a few blocks from the White House, we found a month where National Guard troops and tanks were in the streets. It was a harried experience. You go home and you think,

My God, how short life is. Flight 77, it was minimal impact, but Sept. 11 as a whole, it causes one to stop.

Andrew: Our firm had more than 2,000 employees in New York two blocks away from the World Trade towers. We spend a lot of time with many more people who were much more directly impacted. They lost friends, they lost family members.

HPR: Where is American culture now? How have we changed?

Andrew: The principal changes have been political. Most observers believe the United States has returned pretty much to normal. The covers of our news magazines are back to Hollywood blockbusters; talk radio is back into its old dynamic. Many of the things that were perceptibly changed immediately afterward have returned to a semblance of normality. I do think there is an underlying insecurity that is still there. We now recognize, ironically, that at the same time the Bush administration has much more of an isolationist, go-it-alone cowboy mentality, most Americans recognize they are part of an international dynamic, more so than they did before. There is a more cultural separation between most Americans than the cowboy way in the Bush admin-

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istration. The underlying question is whether people feel safer than they did on Sept. 12. The answer is that they don't, despite billions of dollars spent and the actions the government has taken. That is the principal cultural difference between where we are today and where we were on Sept. 10.

HPR: What has happened to our civil liberties?

Andrew: One, this is in many ways exactly what Republicans want us to debate. I believe in the Karl Rove chess game that Republicans would like nothing better than the Democrats be portrayed as part of the ACLU. It's much smarter for Democrats to simply stay out of that argument as much as they can. The American public is clearly willing to allow their basic civil liberties that we are fighting for in the war on terrorism to be trampled on. Poll after poll will show the vast majority of Americans just don't care about these fundamental violations of civil liberties. From a political standpoint, it's one of the most cynical things I've ever seen a political party do. It has nothing to do with the war on terrorism; it has everything to do with their domestic agenda.

HPR: Is there long-term damage to our liberties?

Andrew: No. I separate myself from most Democrats. I do not think these are important issues in the long run.

HPR: Where do you think President Bush stands with the American people?

Andrew: Thirty points lower than his Dad did.

HPR: Do you expect the 60th percentile to continue?

Andrew: I'd like to see it go 30 points lower, which would be the right number for him because on Election Day he'd get only about 20 percent of the vote.

HPR: That's wishful thinking.

Andrew: The reality is he's still very popular because of the context he finds himself in. We are at war. Americans want to support their leaders even

when they have questions about them. The questions continue to be raised because of the way he defines success: dismantling Al Qaida, capturing bin Laden, ending terrorism as we know it. Those are all the judgments he himself set out that he has not been able to attain. Whether or not anybody could is a different question. But he said that's what he wants to be judged by. By the standards he has set out, he has not succeeded.

HPR: How would you advise Democratic congressional candidates to approach the next three months?

Andrew: It's very important to focus on issues that are important in their districts, the questions of corporate governance, scandals on Wall Street are issues where Congress can have much more of an impact than they can on the war on terrorism. You want to elect people to do things that you know they can actually do. Domestic issues will inevitably become much more dominant in this campaign. That will be true in congressional races all across Indiana and in the secretary of state's race. Having served as deputy secretary of state and having the securities division there means it should be THE prominent issue.

HPR: How is the coming war with Iraq playing into the political context?

Andrew: There are many different questions there. From a political perspective, the discussions about the war take up space that would otherwise be devoted to talking about economic problems. All the arguments about war are probably not beneficial to Democrats in the fall congressional elections. They are legitimate arguments. So it does, one, create a certain political problem because it takes up space on questions that they can do very little about. Two, the external debate is no longer partisan. We have prominent Republicans who were members of the first Bush administration taking positions that are clearly opposed to this administration's. What it comes down to is support of voters who recognize we are not alone

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after no Republican ran for the positions in the primary election. To add the Republican contenders to the ballot, the state party delegated the right to call a meeting to Vanderburgh County Republican Chairwoman Bettye Lou Jerrel. She was required to notify all eligible precinct leaders and the state 10 days before calling a meeting to slate candidates. Papers filed with the election commission show that Jerrel mailed the notices to the precincts on time, but mailed the state notice late.

STATE REVENUE NUMBERS STILL DOWN: Indiana took in \$11.4 million less than expected last month, but state officials were encouraged because tax collections are running \$67 million ahead of the same point a year ago (Kevin Corcoran, Indianapolis Star). That's attributed to higher taxes the state's riverboat casinos pay because gamblers can now board and leave as they please and the 40-cent-a-pack cigarette tax increase July 1. State officials say the real indication of where Indiana's economy is headed will come next month, when estimated corporate and individual tax payments for the third quarter of the year are due.

EAST CHICAGO REPUBLICAN HONKED: News that

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he voted in the East Chicago primary election in May angers Anthony Capehart, a resident of Gaithersburg, Md., since 1997 (William Lazarus, Times of Northwest Indiana). "I feel violated," Capehart said this week. But as a former East Chicagoan, Capehart was not surprised. "I've heard numerous stories about the corruption of the political machine in that area," he said. LaVega Baize, could not have had any feelings about his vote in the May 7, 2002, primary. He was dead at the time. His death certificate shows he died at the age of 89 in Beaver Dam, Ky., on Jan. 13, 1999. Both Capehart and Baize once lived in the home of Peter Thayer, a lifetime East Chicago resident and a maverick Republican. Thayer, who accuses his party of being in an "unholy alliance" with local Democrats, suspects that vote fraud was far more extensive. That two fraudulent votes came out of his own house, he said, "shows you how arrogant they are." He acknowledged that he doesn't know who orchestrated the fraud, though he lays blame on existing political leadership. Unlike a number of states, Indiana does not require voters to produce identification at the polls, even when precinct election officials doubt a voter's true identity. "Blame

in the world and that the cowboy mentality that we're going to do it alone is superficially very appealing in many ways and is in direct conflict with most people's experience since Sept. 11, when all of a sudden dynamics have happened by people whose religion you may not even be able to pronounce in countries you cannot identify on the globe can reach out and actually hurt you right here at home. We cannot be isolationist. We have to be engaged in the wider world in making sure we can address wrongs in the world wherever they are. That was the position of the Clinton/Gore administration and the Democratic Party. But after Sept. 11, we've seen average Americans I talk to in barber shops understand much more than they did before: We're not alone in the world.

HPR: The Bush administration appears to be girding for another terror attack. What kind of psychological and political impact might that have this fall?

Andrew: It could have a serious one. But it will be a complicated impact because it will not just be that people will

feel that we are under attack. It will be more of a demonstration that we do not operate alone in the world. Whether there is a visceral need for revenge in the long run, every time there is an attack it tends to reconfirm support for an internationalist agenda. It's a Colin Powell agenda versus a Dick Cheney agenda. You will find that over time the Powell agenda will be the one that will win out in the administration because average Americans who might have been more isolationist in the past are becoming much more engaged and much more cognizant of world affairs. The electorate in Indiana is very smart. They know the secretary of state in Indiana is not going to be doing anything to fight the war on terrorism, but he can do a heck of a lot when it comes to fighting corporate corruption and enforcing the securities laws of our state and nation. They will focus in on those issues and that will be true in congressional races.

HPR: Any other thoughts?

Andrew: No, those are my last thoughts. I will not have any others today.

HPR: Now that's dangerous. ❖

Indiana 2002, 2004 Racing Form

Trend Line: Remember back in 1992, it was the Soccer Mom that everyone was focused on? Well, this year in the fight to control Congress, it's the Jeep Chick. Everytime I looked in my rear view mirror this past weekend, I saw a Jeep Chick: a fashionable, 30-something professional woman, probably single or married with no children who drives a Jeep Wrangler or a Renegade but doesn't really go camping or fishing. The Jeep Chick is an independent, strong-willed woman willing to make a forcefully renegade statement about her burgeoning wealth and her zeal for life. She might have started investing in the stock market and may be worried about her 401(k) or whether her company will lay her off because Accounting was screwing up. The Jeep Chick may not be so worried about school shootings and education as she is about Iraq or another terrorist attack. Who swings with the Jeep Chick may win this election. - Brian A. Howey

HORSE R A C E

Indiana Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Jill Long Thompson. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **Websites:** www.jilllongthompson.com; www.chocolaforcongress.com **2000**

Result: Roemer (D) 107,076, Chocola (R) 98,367. **2002 Forecast:** The ol' Horse has never seen a more ineptly coordinated presidential visit. We saw U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer with President Bush on Thursday in South Bend, but Chocola was a mute, albeit richer, candidate. After watching years of stupidly executed Republican races around Indiana, we thought 2002 might be a new day. It didn't start on Thursday. Thompson and U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer denounced TV ads by Chocola on purported Social Security votes (Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*). "Absolutely false," Long Thompson said of the TV spots in which Chocola contends that Long Thompson voted seven times while in Congress "to raid the Social Security trust fund." Roemer accused Chocola of "half-truths and distortions and false statements about Jill's record" and said Chocola had set a negative tone for the campaign. The Chocola campaign responded with a list of seven votes by Long Thompson for budget resolutions, all with budget deficits. "It is when the federal government prescribes a level of spending exceeding its revenue stream that the Social Security trust fund is 'dipped' into," according to the Chocola explanation. If that is the definition, Long Thompson said, then-President Bush could also be accused of "raiding" the Social Security trust fund because of the deficit budget the president has proposed for the next fiscal year." **Status:** *Tossup*.

Congressional District 7: Republican: Brose McVey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep.

Julia Carson. **Libertarian:** Andy Horning. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **Websites:** www.juliacarson.house.gov; www.broseforcongress.org **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** Based on McVey's leading fundraising numbers *Congressional Quarterly's* Greg Giroux reports: "We're keeping close tabs on that race...It's very rare for a challenger to stay competitive with an incumbent, much less out-raise an incumbent as McVey has done" (*Indianapolis Star*). The Star thoroughly missed Carson's problems with Jewish donors. Rep. John Boehner (R-Ohio), chairman of the U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee, stumped with McVey, touting the "Leave No Child Behind Act". **Status:** *Leans Carson*.

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:**

Bryan Hartke. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Websites:** www.bryanhartke.com; www.house.gov/hostettler/ **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Results:** Hostettler 116,860, Perry (D) 100,461. **2002 Forecast:** Is Hostettler trying to kick an almost safe election away? Saying the *Evansville Courier & Press* doesn't "want to hear both sides of an issue," Hostettler told a local radio station Tuesday he will no longer talk to the newspaper (Hostettler doesn't talk to us, either, for reasons that have never been explained). In an interview with WIKY, Hostettler said he will try to utilize other outlets to "get our message out." Hostettler's office has not taken calls from the *Courier & Press* since the Aug. 16 publication of an article regarding a meeting between the 8th District Republican congressman and a group of breast cancer survivors. "Given the fact that the *Evansville Courier & Press* doesn't actually need to witness news in order to report it, we and my office have ultimately determined that they can write stories without our input." Hostettler told WIKY. Hostettler is asking that the date, format and moderator for a planned televised debate be changed. **Status:** *LEANS HOSTETTLER*.

Congressional District 9: Republican: Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep.

Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **Websites:** www.house.gov/baronhill/, www.mikesodrel.com **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459 (D), Leising (R) 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton (D) 128,885, Leising (R) 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Results:** Hill (D) 92,477, Leising (R) 87,278, Feeney (L) 2,397. **2000 Results:** Hill 125,978, Bailey (R) 101,790, Chambers (L) 4,634. **2002 Forecast:** President Bush was in Sodrel's Louisville media market and while he met with the president, he received scant attention at the events. "The President is excited about our chances in Indiana's new Ninth District," said Sodrel, adding, "I told President Bush that it was an honor to see him again in Louisville, but next time we ought to meet in southern Indiana." **Status:** *Leans Hill* ❖

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Republican County Chairman Roger Chiabai," Justin Murphy of Lake County Combined Election/Voter Registration Board, said. "He appoints Democrats to Republican election board positions. He puts one party in control of both sides, undermining the watchdog effect and the checks and balances that would protect our votes." Chiabai, who was named election board chairman with the help of two board Democrats allied with East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick, did not return calls seeking comment.

BROOKS SAYS INDIANAPOLIS COULD BE TERROR TARGET: By sharing information and remaining diligent in the fight against terrorism, the United States can minimize the threat of another attack, U.S. Attorney Susan Brooks said (Associated Press). Speaking to the Rotary Club of Indianapolis, Brooks said the al-Qaida terrorist network is still capable of attacking. "It can happen," said Brooks, a former deputy mayor of Indianapolis who is now U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. "We still need to be vigilant, and we cannot stop." Indianapolis, she said, is considered a potential target, partly because of the many events held in the city and because it's home to Fort Harrison, a main financial center for the

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military. Since the 2001 attacks, federal, state and local officials have been working together. "Sharing of information is really what is key," she said. "It's all about connecting the dots."

CAMPAIGN & ELECTIONS INDIANA CD ODDS: Indiana House

1 Peter J. Visclosky (D) favored to be re-elected 7 to 1 (88% chance)

2 Chris Chocola (R) favored over Jill Long Thompson (D), 6 to 5 (54.5% chance)

3 Mark Souder (R) favored to be re-elected 4 to 1 (80% chance)

4 Steve Buyer (R) favored to retain seat, 100 to 1 (99% chance)

5 Dan Burton (R) favored to be re-elected 6 to 1 (86% chance)

6 Mike Pence (R) favored to be re-elected, 3 to 2 (60% chance)

7 Julia Carson (D) favored to be re-elected 5 to 4 (55.6% chance)

8 John Hostettler (R) favored to be re-elected 5 to 3 (62.5% chance he will be re-elected)

9 Baron P. Hill (D) favored to be re-elected 8 to 7 (53.3% chance he will be re-elected).

CHAMBER ENDORSES ROTH IN HD19: Pamela Roth Thursday received the endorsement of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce in the 19th District state representative race against State Rep. Bob Kuzman (Post-Tribune). ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Michael Baron, U.S. News & World Report - American voters don't like what they see as bigotry. Despite the advantages of incumbency and racial identification with a majority of voters, (U.S. Rep.) Cynthia McKinney was defeated by a solid margin. Obviously very many voters, both black and white, were repelled by the bigotry they saw in the McKinney campaign. American voters vote against candidates supported by and supporting persons with ties to radical Islam and terrorism. This should not be a surprise. After McKinney's defeat, Ronald Walters, a professor at the University of Maryland - College Park and supporter of Jesse Jackson for president in the 1980s, said, "We are probably past the point that holding elected office is consistent with ... radical politics." Right. Some black politicians with majority black constituencies have assumed that they could go as far left on issues as they wanted to without risking their seats; indeed, many believed that there would always be an advantage for the farthest left candidate. No more. Black American voters are not unanimously swayed by the race card. Denise Majette was called a "Tomette" and the like by the McKinney forces. This didn't prevent her from winning 1 of 3 black votes against an incumbent. Evidently many black voters believed there were other issues more important than who is the most "black." For more than a generation, many black politicians have built their careers around the assumptions that courts would provide them with constituencies with large black majorities and that the way to win in such districts was to hew to the left on issues and play the race card again and again. Those assumptions are now in doubt. Black politicians will now see that they have a political incentive not to move left and toward racial appeals, away from the rest of the electorate, but to move to the center and to try to appeal to a majority

made up of voters of all backgrounds. This will put more black politicians in a position where they can become credible statewide candidates.

Jack Colwell - South Bend Tribune - Mitch Daniels vs. Joe Kernan. A bunch of prominent Hoosier Republicans would like to see that race. That's why they are trying to convince Daniels, now the White House budget director, to come back home again to Indiana to run for governor in 2004. What does Daniels say? In an interview Thursday in Mishawaka, where Daniels campaigned for Chris Chocola, the budget director said he has "promised a large number of people that I would keep an open mind about it. And they have promised me to go away and let me do my job, let me do my duty for the president." He joked that if the question had been whether he is running for governor, he could honestly say "no." But when the question was whether he is going to run for governor, he could only say that he indeed will keep an open mind until he must focus on that possibility and decide. Other potential Republican nominees for governor already are raising money, organizing, seeking voter support. "That's what they ought to do," Daniels said. When must he make a "go" decision if he decides to run? "I realize I would need to give some indication before too many months come off next year's calendar," Daniels responded. Has he talked to President Bush about leaving the administration to seek the governor's office? "Not in any extensive way," Daniels said. "He's mentioned it a time or two. But I'm not going to take his time unless I do decide to seriously consider (running), which I'm not at this point. I've just got my head down trying to do this job. And I'm not going to burden him at this point with kind of a long-shot, hypothetical question." ❖