



HOWEY

Political Report

V 12, No 14 *Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics*

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2005

A debate about Bush's war and the 2006 impact

'It will end in a way and at an hour of our choosing'

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

Last week, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission announced it had chosen a prominent National Mall site for the memorial to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, which was a bit of obscure news given the swirl of controversy over the War in Iraq. Eisenhower is poised to join on the mall a pantheon of great American presidents: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and FDR.

President Eisenhower resisted plunging the United States into war. He had opportunities at the Suez Canal, Hungary and Vietnam. He knew war, having served in the Army infantry and, in 1918 during World War I, engaged in battle in the tank corps. As supreme Allied commander in 1944, he was responsible for sending 47 divisions, 6,900 ships and more than a million men into battle, supplying them with 9,000 tons of supplies every day. As *Wikipedia* notes, "The Normandy invasion succeeded in its objective by sheer force of numbers."

On Sept. 14, 2001, it appeared that President George W. Bush had a shot at becoming a great American president. His speech at the National Cathedral before the dust had settled at the Pentagon and World Trade Center boosted American morale and resolve. "War has been waged against us by stealth and deceit and murder," President Bush told Americans and the world. "This nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger. This conflict was begun on the timing and terms of others; it will end in a way and at



U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel posed with Iraqi troops last week in a two-day visit. (Photo courtesy of Rep. Sodrel)



"This session will be so political. A real tax package won't make it until next year."

— State Sen. Allen

Paul, to the *Muncie Star Press*

The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink Inc. It was founded in 1994.

Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington Writer
Jack E. Howey, Editor

Subscriptions:
\$350 annually HPR via e-mail;
\$550 annually HPR & HPR Daily Wire.
Call 317-254-0535.

The Howey Political Report
PO Box 40265
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265.

www.howeypolitics.com
BrianHowey@howeypolitics.com

Indianapolis Office: 317-506-0883.
Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535.
Washington, DC Office: 202-256-5822.
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

©2005, The Howey Political Report. All rights reserved. Photocopying, Internet forwarding, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or part, is a violation of federal law and is **strictly prohibited** without consent of the publisher.



George Will finds our 'dynamist' p. 4

11 games worth of political capital P. 5

Columnists: McAuliffe, Carpenter p. 6

Horse Race: Thompson in SD23 p. 7

Ticker: Cabela deal dead in Hammond p. 9

Covering a Decade of Indiana Politics



an hour of our choosing."

Stealth and deceit

This past week, that ending became the focus of an intense debate that will reverberate through November 2006. It was sparked by Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq. "It's time to bring them home," said Rep. Murtha. "Our military has accomplished its mission and done its duty. The public turned against this war before I said it. The public is emotionally tied into finding a solution to this thing, and that's what I hope this administration is going to find out."



President Bush at the National Cathedral, Sept. 14, 2001. (White House Photo)

Newsweek reported that it was "a turning point -- and a low point -- in the war at home over the war in Iraq. Reassembling its campaign-style war-room apparatus, the White House went on the offensive against Democrats, who in turn were emboldened by polls that showed a cratering of the Bush presidency."

"The flaws in the intelligence are plain enough in hindsight. But any suggestion that pre-war information was distorted, hyped or fabricated by the leader of the nation is utterly false," Vice President Dick Cheney said in a speech to the American Enterprise Institute (AEI).

And in a clip likely to be played in October 2006, Murtha, a Vietnam veteran who supported the war, said, "I like guys who've never been there that criticize us who've been there. I like that. I like guys who got five deferments and never been there and send people to war, and then don't like to hear suggestions about what needs to be done."

Referring to Bush, Murtha added, "I resent the fact, on Veterans Day, he criticized Democrats for criticizing them."

The *Miami Herald* reported that Cheney explained in 1999, "I had other priorities in the '60s other than military service." Bush, of course, reportedly spent the Vietnam War in the Alabama Air National Guard.

A Gallup poll earlier this month revealed that 52 percent of Americans favor a fast withdrawal from Iraq.

And with each passing day, more revelations about the case President Bush made for invading Iraq are emerging. The *Los Angeles Times* reported earlier this month that as Bush and his aides issued increasingly dire warnings about Iraq's mobile biological weapons labs, German intelligence had told the CIA that its sourcing was not credible.

There are reports of the showdown between the

Defense Department, that eschewed "nation building" and the State Department which saw Iraq in Colin Powell's famed "Pottery Barn" scenario. The mistakes that were made included a lack of necessary troop levels to secure the borders and provide security. Whereas Eisenhower allowed low-level Nazis to administer post-war Germany, the U.S. eviscerated all elements of the Baath Party in Iraq, fueling an insurgency with Bush goading them saying, "Bring 'em on."

The White House has been saying that the 100 House Democrats, including former U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, who voted for the war "had access to the same intelligence" as the President, but not the Daily Briefing.

New York Times columnist Frank Rich, a vociferous Bush critic, observed last Sunday. "One hideous consequence of the White House Big Lie -- fusing the war of choice in Iraq with the war of necessity that began on 9/11 -- is that the public, having rejected one, automatically rejects the other. That's already happening. The percentage of Americans who now regard fighting terrorism as a top national priority is either in the single or low double digits in every poll. Thus, the tragic bottom line of the Bush catastrophe: the administration has at once increased the ranks of jihadists by turning Iraq into a new training ground and recruiting magnet while at the same time exhausting America's will and resources to confront the expanded threat."

There were other revelations.

Lawrence Wilkerson, formerly chief of staff to Colin Powell during his tenure as secretary of state, said "wrong-headed ideas for the handling of foreign detainees arose from White House and Pentagon officials who argued that 'the president of the United States is all-powerful' and the Geneva Conventions irrelevant" (*Associated Press*). Wilkerson also said President Bush was 'too aloof, too distant from the details' of postwar planning. Underlings exploited Bush's detachment and made poor decisions. Wilkerson blamed Vice President Cheney, saying that he must have sincerely believed that Iraq could be a spawning ground for new terror assaults, because "otherwise I have to declare him a moron, an idiot or a nefarious bastard."

These polls and trickle of information are the things that can produce the most feared element of politics, the tsunami that can swamp the notion of "all politics is local."

Sodrel, Pence stay the course

Indiana freshman U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel, like colleague Mike Pence a few months ago, spent two days and one night in Iraq last week. He left for Baghdad the day after Murtha's bombshell.

"It is a slow process, but contrary to what you hear all the time -- (that) there is no exit strategy -- there is a strate-



gy," Sodrel told the *Gannett News Service* upon his return. "There's just not a date certain. It's difficult to peg a number and say, 'Here's the date.' You set goals, but then you have to change the goals and the timetables based on the current conditions."

Sodrel said he asked Gen. George Casey Jr., the senior U.S. military commander in Iraq, to rate how well the war is going on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being "this is a slam dunk."

"He said it was an eight or a nine," said Sodrel, a veteran of the National Guard (*Gannett News Service*). "It doesn't mean that we don't still have challenges or that there's not things that can go wrong. But, in his view, more is going right than is going wrong."

U.S. Rep. Mike Pence told the *Muncie Star Press* that a gradual withdrawal is about to begin. He declared that the U.S. was "winning" the war last summer. "I have to believe in my heart as we see democracy win, we are on track with that strategy," Pence said.

On Nov. 5 in Boonville, U.S. Rep. John Hostettler said Congress, not just the Bush administration, should bear responsibility for the decision to go into Iraq and said, despite claims of intelligence failure, "Congress had all the information that was necessary to make the right decision" (*Evansville Courier & Press*). Hostettler, who voted against that authorization, said he relied mostly on reports from the CIA that cast doubt on the reports that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. Much information supporting the war came from dissidents within Iraq whom Hostettler said had their own motives for toppling the dictator.

"Ultimately, Congress is accountable. We are accountable for the decisions we make," Hostettler said. "Sometimes we get it right. Sometimes we get it wrong."

Republicans know they have a big problem in defending the war with the 2006 election coming, according to Joe Losco, chairman of Ball State University's political science department (*Muncie Star Press*). "You are seeing the President talking about a phased withdrawal," Losco said. "And Republicans know they have to bring some troops home in 2006."

In an Elon University poll in North Carolina, 45.8 percent said they voted for the ticket of Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney in last year's presidential election. But only 26.2 percent said they will vote Republican in next year's congressional election.

"I think if this were not an odd-numbered year, we would have great difficulties," said U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona (*Associated Press*). "But we can recover. Reagan recovered. Clinton recovered. We can recover."

What Lugar is saying

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, appearing on the Nov. 20 CBS show *Face the Nation*, said the debate over the war in Iraq was not helpful. "We've had votes this week in which we're not going to leave," Lugar said. "Both the Senate and the House decided that wasn't appropriate, Democrats and Republicans. But the point is, even as we stay, there's going to be great anxiety unless we know how we're going to succeed. Do we need more troops rather than less, for example? Do we need certainly more supplies, arms for the Iraqis that we're claiming are trained, but frequently don't have ammunition, don't seem to have ways of getting around the country? These are questions that have to be asked, as opposed to a lot of caterwauling."

Asked if President Bush should acknowledge "mistakes," Lugar responded, "I think he has, and obviously he should. We've pointed out some in the Foreign Relations Committee very frequently in terms of reconstruction monies and the lack of progress there, the lack of planning before we started. We ... made those points. We'll probably make some more. In other words, the point of oversight, like checks and balances, is that somebody at least comes forward with better ideas."

Bush to speak to the nation Wednesday

President Bush will address the nation on Wednesday night from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. The goal of the President's speech is to prepare the country for a gradual drawdown of U.S. troops in Iraq and update the nation on the status of Iraqi security forces.

Critical questions for Republicans are whether they can believe the Bush administration on Iraqi troop readiness, and whether the American exit will leave behind a prospering new democracy, or a petri dish of terrorism in the world's oil belt.

As America geared up for war in 2002-03, HPR observed that this was a bold president who was laying everything on the line. Two thousand American lives later, an insurgency in its "last throes" as Cheney said last summer has produced a teetering regime with a critical Iraqi vote in two weeks.

The question posed as more revelations about the scenarios that led to war surface, is who will pay the price for failure? It is a nagging question for scores of GOP congressmen. They can take solace in Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who said on Monday, that history will show "things that look like mistakes that will turn out to be great successes and things that look like great successes that will turn out to be mistakes." ❖



Recognition for a dynamist

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels used his address at the October HPR Forum to lay out the new fault lines in Hoosier politics.

He took the terminology from Virginia Postrel's *"The Future and Its Enemies"* and defined the political tectonic plates between the "stasists," those seeking to preserve the status quo, and the "dynamists" who seek progressive change, extensively described in the Oct. 6 edition of HPR.

It was a speech largely ignored by the Statehouse press corps. *Indianapolis Star* columnists Russ Pulliam and Sheila Suess Kennedy noted the observations. But it was Sunday's *Washington Post* column by conservative George Will who put the "Book of Daniels" before a national audience.

Will observed, "Daniels was known at OMB, set about: Ending bottled water for employees of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (annual savings, \$35,000). Ending notification of drivers that their licenses are expiring; letting them be responsible for noticing (saving \$200,000). Buying rather than renting floor mats for BMV offices (saving \$267,000 this year). Initiating the sale of 2,096 surplus state vehicles (so far, \$1.95 million in revenue from 1,514 sales). Changing the state lottery's newsletter from semimonthly and in color to a monthly and black-and-white (annual savings, \$21,670). And so on, and on, agency by agency. Daniels believes that Danielsism, far from being an exercise in small-mindedness, actually serves a large vision."

So it's the stasists vs. the dynamists. Will continued, "The former believe in managing the unfolding of the future. The latter believe in minimal management of that unfolding; hence they believe in minimizing government, which has a metabolic urge to manage and a stake in preserving the status quo that government's bureaucracies are comfortable serving. In the division between social conservatives, who emphasize nurturing virtue, and libertarian conservatives, who emphasize expanding liberty by limiting government, Daniels is with the latter."

Thus, it is this backdrop, with its limited grasp by Hoosier reporters, commentators and public servants, that we find ourselves less than six weeks away from the second leg-

islative session of an era described by Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton as either a "watershed" or a "waterfall."

With Daniels, the dynamist changes are rolling out in sequence, playing off a multi-year script. It was instituting the inspector general, establishing the Economic Development Corporation, modernizing BMV and FSSA, securing a "balanced budget" with his \$200 million trump card tax amnesty, and engaging the rest of the world with Daylight-saving time.



Gov. Daniels lays out the "stasist vs. dynamist" fault lines at the HPR Forum in October, something that caught the attention of *Washington Post* columnist George Will last weekend. (HPR Photo by Thomas Howey)

While these were successes heralded by Gov. Daniels and his team, the victories were hardly slam dunks.

The Indy Works losses suffered by Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson reveal the difference in modus operandi. Both he and Daniels line up squarely in the "dynamist" camp. Daniels used a tremendous amount of political capital in seizing the Colts/Convention Center stadium, then hitting the doughnut counties to sell a tax increase. Peterson was unable to make any kind of inroads with Republicans on Indy Works.

The *Indianapolis Star* reported that Peterson will pursue only a "modest agenda" in the 2006 session of the Indiana General Assembly. He noted that in four separate votes, not one Republican has backed Peterson's consolidation plan. "We will bring up the fire merger if we think there's a chance to get it passed," Peterson said. "If it will be fought purely on partisan grounds, then it may not make progress."

It prompted State Rep. Phil Hinkle, who spearheaded the assault on Peterson's Indy Works plan, to tell the *Star*, "I think he recognized the change in the political landscape, but he didn't know how to handle it. I would think he won't come over with as full a plate this time."

War, budgets and reforming sprawling bureaucracies are messy affairs. There is great angst among those who cling to comforting elements. Gov. Daniels has changed the predictable multiple question test to essay mode. He is telling those used to penciling in "None of the Above" to if you don't like it, propose a better way.

The stasists see 2006 as an opportunity to inflict the pain after the change. House Democrats and plan to center their assaults on time and taxes (the BMV issue appears to have shriveled).

The initial lines drawn for 2006 appear to be over the



"Major Moves" transportation funding plan that includes leasing the Indiana Toll Road. Another element will be Ways and Means Chairman Jeff Espich's plan to move welfare costs from locals to the state.

Sen. Garton has indicated that anything on the tax front needs to occur quickly. Rep. William Crawford, D-Indianapolis, told the *Times of Northwest Indiana* that he didn't see any problems embracing the broader Republican proposal. "We're starting off with some areas of agreement," Crawford said.

"It's obviously the right thing to do. The question has been how to pay for it," State Rep. Chet Dobis, D-Merrillville, said (*Post-Tribune*).

Gov. Mitch Daniels is also warm to the welfare shift concept. "This is a good beginning and the governor looks for-

ward to working with the Legislature ... keeping in mind that the state faces continued fiscal challenges," Jankowski said.

But Sen. Luke Kenley, chairman of the Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee, is worried that treatment for children is already too expensive (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). He said it's dangerous for the state to take over the costs without changing the system.

Therein lies the GOP dilemma. How to push for structural change under the threat of a ballot box debacle?

For clues, look no further than George Will's hero, President Reagan, who once employed Daniels as the White House political director. Study the 1982 to 1984 sequence, that went from the "stay the course" election deep in the throes of a severe recession, to the sunny "Morning in America" that produced a 49-state landslide. for the Gipper. ❖

11 games worth of political capital

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

In the 2005 HPR 50 Most Influential List, we placed Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning at the head of our Honorable Mention list.

We called him the "\$98 million lobbyist" with every TD lobbed worth a dose of political capital as his boss, Jim Irsay, sought a retractable roof stadium.

That observation came four days before Mitch Daniels was sworn in as governor in an aging arena at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

The push for the Colts stadium appeared to be in the realm of Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson. Four months later, it was the Daniels administration that had wrested the stadium away from the mayor. It was a move that was heatedly debated inside the fledgling administration. Would it be prudent politics to take over a stadium that could be fraught with cost overruns and blown deadlines along with a tenuous relationship with the building trades unions?

What followed in the weeks after the Indiana General Assembly switched control of the project from the city to the state was an unprecedented use of political capital by the new governor. There were eight town hall meetings in the Republican doughnut counties. This was anti-tax territory. Conventional wisdom since 1988 was that no taxes could be raised, no how.

By the end of June, eight of the nine counties (sans Morgan County) approved the plan. Ground broke on the sta-

HPR is moving; to return on Thursday

The *Howey Political Report* will be moving its offices after publication of this edition to our new quarters near Broad Ripple Park.

There will be no *HPR Daily Wire* on Wednesday. We expect to resume to our normal publishing schedule on Thursday. ❖

dium in September.

How would one assess the political risks today?

Well, it doesn't hurt that the Indianapolis Colts are not only 11-0, but are drawing historical comparisons with such mega-powers as the 1972 Miami Dolphins and the 1985 Chicago Bears.

On Monday, Gov. Daniels appeared with Colts President Bill Polian to unveil the new Colt license plates. "It's more about the fun and the sense of broad participation than about the actual dollars," Daniels said. "It couldn't be a better day to unveil this when everybody is watching Indiana and Indianapolis and our football," Polian said.

Get that. The governor was having "fun" on the same day the Colts routed the Pittsburgh Steelers on ABC's *Monday Night Football*, a telecast that featured dazzling, blimp-provided nighttime B-roll of downtown Indianapolis.

That's the kind of scenario Daniels and Mickey Mauer hope to attract a corporate headquarters or two.

Flush off our uncanny World Series forecast (Oct. 15, the White Sox will win it all), HPR is officially forecasting an Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears Super Bowl: the best offense vs. the best defense. **Status: Colts 31, Bears 6.** ❖





Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - Thank you, Mr. Vice President. It's nice to know where we stand. We're dishonest and reprehensible in your eyes. The country has soured on the war – big time, as Cheney might say. Nearly two-thirds of Americans say they disapprove of the way President Bush is handling things in Iraq. Yet, the elected officials who reflect their constituents' views, Cheney said last week, are trying to "rewrite history." Or are "losing their memory or their backbone." Cheney has no patience with members of Congress who now say they were misled or not given the whole story before voting to give Bush the authority to invade. Complaints about bad intelligence or badly interpreted intelligence, Cheney said, are among "the most dishonest and reprehensible charges ever aired in this city." Yet what else do you call Bush's bold statement in his 2003 State of the Union address that "Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa. Our intelligence sources tell us that he has attempted to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes suitable for nuclear weapons production"? Even though no caches of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons were found in Iraq, the Bush administration says it's irresponsible to now say the country was misled when we were told the stockpiles existed. But, really, what other response can the Bush folks have? They're struggling to regain Americans' confidence and have decided on a strategy of bluster. ❖

Paul McAuliffe, *Evansville Courier & Press* - Beneath the surface of most public policy debates lurks another debate of deeper significance. Are we really capable of governing ourselves? Evidence around Evansville lately makes you wonder. Look at the absurd turn taken in the debate over consolidation of city and county government. Some of the Southwestern Indiana legislative delegation is signing on to the notion that we ought to have two referendums. The first would decide if we want discussions on consolidation to continue. The second - two years later - would be to decide whether to adopt a detailed consolidation plan. I've got a better idea. Instead of voting for legislators in 2006, let's vote instead whether we want to vote for legislators. Then, if we decide we want to vote, we can vote on the candidates in 2008. That way the legislators can experience for themselves the absurdity and expense of conducting two elections to determine one issue. "If I were going to make a prediction, I think that would be a pretty good one," said Rep. Phil Hoy, D-Evansville. It might be a pretty good prediction,

but it's a terrible plan of action. Sen. Vaneta Becker, R-Evansville, also jumped on the two-vote bandwagon. "People don't understand this isn't just a referendum on the concept," she told Whitson. "It would be approving a whole new form of government." The parties are afraid of consolidation. The Democrats fear that it would lessen the control they exercise through the city. The Republicans fear that it would lessen the control they exercise through the county. But many in both parties know deep down that a consolidated government would be more efficient and more effective. The solution? Put off a decision as long as possible and hope the issue goes away. ❖



Dan Carpenter, *Indianapolis Star* - I really need to keep up with my churchgoing better. Last week, upon reading the latest laudatory article in this paper about U.S. Rep. Mike Pence and his prospects for greater glory, I got to thinking about one of my favorite Bible passages. Pence, you see, perhaps more than anyone else in our most righteous Republican congressional delegation, wears his religion like a gleaming coat of armor against the slings and arrows of naysayers. I once heard him answer a question about his ambitions for higher office by saying that decision was in the hands of a higher power. So I wondered, how does this politician who is trying to position himself as a tighter-fisted conservative than the president reconcile cuts in government assistance to the poorest Americans with the teachings of the Gospels? Specifically, I wondered, has a guy who makes a holy cause of cutting medical care for children while preserving the real budget-busters -- massive war spending and tax cuts for billionaires -- ever read Matthew 25? "Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' "Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Whew. Talk about a penalty for picking yachts over food stamps. The Savior didn't say a word about abortion or gay marriage, but he sure made it clear what a Christian's priorities are in what we now call the human services realm. ❖



Bush, Daniels and immigration

TRENDLINE: President Bush visited Tucson, Arizona, Monday to call for a crackdown on illegal immigration and reforms to permit guest workers into the country. The AP reports Bush said "he wants to crack down on those who enter the country illegally but also give out more visas to foreigners with jobs, a dual plan he hopes will appease the social conservatives and business leaders who are his core supporters." Gov. Mitch Daniels provided a contrast with *Washington Post* columnist George Will reporting: In the division between social conservatives, who emphasize nurturing virtue, and libertarian conservatives, who emphasize expanding liberty by limiting government, Daniels is with the latter. For example, regarding immigration, an issue that dramatizes this division, many social conservatives are restrictionists, but Daniels, whose state's population is, he says, "getting older and not growing," welcomes immigrants, who usually are "young people with dreams -- a good development."



2006 Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Ed Cohen, Joe Donnelly. **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. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** Chocola sent a letter to Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta advocating the notion that St. Joseph and Elkhart should not be split by time zones: "The counties of St. Joseph, Elkhart and Marshall share close economic and social ties," Chocola said. "The economic necessity of keeping these counties under one time zone must take precedence over all other justifications for a time zone change. Economic growth and job creation should be the main objective and will be best facilitated by keeping this economic

region together in the same time zone. The workers and businesses located in the region are highly dependent on one another, forging a close economic bond among the three counties. Commuter data supports the reciprocal nature of the workforce. Of the workers commuting to St. Joseph County, 78.7% come from the counties in the east. Conversely, 94.5% of the 15, 447 workers who leave St. Joseph daily commute to the Eastern Time zone. Roughly 11,000 St. Joseph County workers commute to Elkhart on a daily basis. Marshall County sends 2,675 commuters to St. Joseph and 2,206 commuters to Elkhart County. Clearly, the workforce is highly intertwined. Splitting the counties by time zones would wreak havoc on television broadcasting schedules. The region's largest airport, South Bend Regional Airport, services both Elkhart and Marshall Counties. Attempts to divide the region into different time zones negate the airport's intent to be a regional airport and the time changes from one county to the next will only serve to confuse passengers. As DOT examines feedback from the local communities, factual evidence should take precedence over heated rhetoric. The key question is, did Chocola anger his supporters and independents in St. Joseph County? **Status:** *Leans Chocola*

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **Democrat:** Fort Wayne Councilman Thomas Hayhurst. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **People:** Urban/rural 65/35%; median income \$44,013; Race: 87% white, 6% black, 4.5% Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 36/52% **2000 Presidential:** Bush 66%, Gore 33%. Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+17. **2002 results:** Souder 92,566 (63%), Rigdon 50,509 (34%). **2004 Results:** Souder, Parra **2004 Results:** Souder 171,389 (69%), Parra 76,232 (31%). **2006 Forecast:** The sons of Indiana Rep. Mark Souder have taken turns traveling with their dad to Paris, Germany, Singapore and Taiwan on privately funded trips (*Gannett News Service*). Souder explained, "To do this job well already stresses family time. If anything, I think the rules for children should be more generous, not less." **Status:** *Likely Souder*

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** Baron Hill, Gretchen Clearwater. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000**



Presidential: Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Results:** Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** A 9th District rematch between Republican Rep. Mike Sodrel and former Democratic Congressman Baron Hill could be about more than just who will represent southeastern Indiana (Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal). The outcome could also help decide which party controls the U.S. House of Representatives. In fact, the race -- the third between the two -- already is slotted as one of the most competitive in the nation, earning a place on the "must-watch" list of political observers. "There may be next year a dozen close House races, and I think this may be the marquee one," said Hanover College political science professor William Kubik. "This could be the congressional race to watch in the country." "Sodrel managed to win in a good year for Republicans," said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. "He now has the advantage of incumbency. That would normally make him the substantial favorite. But 2006 is likely not to be a good year for Republicans. How bad will it be? We don't know." On the center's Crystal Ball, a Web site that tracks federal races, Sabato wrote that the race "leans Republican." "Expect this protracted race to get down and dirty," Sabato wrote on the Crystal Ball. "But for now the Democrat faces a just slightly uphill battle." The *Cook Political Report* also has the race leaning Republican. HPR has this race a tossup, and a probable barn burner. **Status:** *Toss-up.*

2006 State Races

Senate District 4: Republican: Open. Democrat: Karen Tallian. **2002 Results:** Antich-Carr 16,011, Stillman (R) 12,583. **2006 Forecast:** State Sen Rose Antich-Carr was elected clerk of Merillville. Portage attorney Karen Tallian appears to be the favorite to take this seat, of which 75 percent lies in Porter County. David Uzelac has no plans to run (*Post-Tribune*). Uzelac ran for state representative in 2004, falling to Chet Dobis. A Democratic caucus of District 4 precinct committeemen will vote for Antich-Carr's replacement. Though Uzelac would love to hold a state seat, he realizes the chances of a Lake County candidate winning District 4 again are slim. "Politics are strange, though," Uzelac said. "I could get 20 people calling me from Porter County."

Primary Status: *LIKELY TALLIAN.*

Senate District 23: Hendricks County Councilman Dick Thompson. Democrat: Open. **1998 Results:** Harrison

(R) 21,175 Shelby (D) 11,436. **2002 Results:** Harrison 23,811. **2006 Forecast:** State Rep. Tim Brown announced he will seek a seventh term, thus ending speculation of a showdown with former Sen. Dick Thompson. There was speculation he would seek the open SD23 seat that will be vacated by Sen. Joe Harrison. Hendricks County Councilman Dick Thompson, a former senator, has already announced for that seat. "I've recently been promoted to positions of responsibility," he said. "I feel I can best serve the citizens in my district with my roles in the House." First elected in 1994, Brown serves as the House's Deputy Speaker Pro-Tempore and the newly appointed chairman of its Public Health Committee. We think this was a wise move by Brown, who had no guarantees he would prevail in the primary. This leaves Thompson has a prohibitive favorite for this seat. **Primary Status:** *LIKELY THOMPSON.*

Senate District 27: Republican: State Sen. Allen Paul, Richmond City Council President Bruce Wissel. Democrat: Open. **1998 Results:** Paul 22,679. **2002 Results:** Paul 22,841. **2006 Forecast:** Controversial issues -- like time zone changes and Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicle branch closings -- will likely get hearings as a result of bills filed by Sen. Allen Paul, R-Richmond (*Muncie Star Press*). One bill would seek a statewide referendum to decide whether the state should be in the eastern or central time zone. The other would reinstate five BMV branches recently closed in Jay, Randolph and Wayne counties. "We will have a hearing on this bill," Paul said about the BMV legislation. "They will have to come in and defend what they did." Paul said he also expected House members to force a hearing on time zone changes, given disagreement in several counties about where the eastern and central time line should be drawn. Sen. Paul is facing Richmond Council President Bruce Wissel in the May 2006 Republican primary. Passing any major tax package during the short session of the Legislature will be tough, according to Paul, given that 2006 is an election year for 100 House members and 25 senators (*Muncie Star Press*). "This session will be so political," said Paul. "A real tax package won't make it until next year." Nothing like seeking out "controversial issues" when faced with a tough primary nomination battle. **Status:** *Leans Paul*

House District 58: Republican: State Rep. Woody Burton, Johnson County Council President Ron West. **2002 Results:** Burton 9,917, Montgomery (D) 3,453, Miller (L) 437. **2004 Results:** Burton 18,766, Turley (D) 7,420. **2006 Forecast:** Rep. Burton said he would support the IACT tax reform proposal, as long as it was guaranteed that property taxes would go down and stay down after new taxes took effect. He does not want a city to start collecting extra taxes and keep its property tax rate the same. **Status:** *Leans Burton.* ❖



McDermott believes Cabela deal dead

HAMMOND - The fate of Cabela's multimillion dollar project in Hammond could be determined Wednesday by the State Board of Finance, but Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. said it already could be a dead deal (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). "I think it's a formality and ultimately the state will find a good reason not to approve us," McDermott said. "I've done everything I can to make it happen; now it's up to the state of Indiana and that's what scares me." Nebraska-based Cabela's has requested the board approve the use of sales tax increment financing for its proposed store on the site of the former Woodmar Country Club and will make a presentation on the development Wednesday. McDermott also will plead for the incentive, he said Monday. "I think the state is very reluctant," he said. "I'm trying to be optimistic they'll see the light and approve the project, but indications are they're not very respectful."



State seeks hired gun to track down scofflaws

INDIANAPOLIS - Having offered the carrot, Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels is outsourcing the stick (Guinane, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). More than 68,000 scofflaws surrendered at least \$197.7 million during the state tax amnesty period that ended Nov. 15. A first for Indiana, the initiative gave debtors two months to pay up without penalty or interest. Now, the state is looking for a hired gun to help track down 60,000 more scofflaws who owe as much as \$4 billion in back taxes. The state put out the proposal last week,

promising the winning bidder a cut of the collections. Delinquent debtors, meanwhile, face double fines. Interest, which is compounded daily, jumps to 6 percent while the standard 10 percent penalty goes to 20 percent. "There was ample opportunity for people to take advantage of Indiana Tax Amnesty," said Stephanie McFarland, spokeswoman for the Indiana Department of Revenue. "Now, serious enforcement begins."

Beverage association hitting the road for slots

COLUMBUS - A grassroots effort to legalize electronic gaming in the state will stop in Columbus Tuesday to gain support (*Columbus Republic*). Representatives from the Indiana Licensed Beverage Association will have a meeting at 2 p.m. at the Elks Lodge No. 521, 4664 Ray Boll Blvd., for tavern, club and other business owners interested in legalizing electronic games. Many of the games are similar to slot machines, where users insert money and try to match symbols such as cherries for cash prizes. They are different from pull-tab machines, which already are legal. Indiana Licensed Beverage Association officials said they want electronic games legalized because many businesses already operate them and could be taxed, adding revenues for local and state governments. "(The machines) are already out there," said Don Marquardt, ILBA president. "Regulate it."

Jury pools to come from broader list

RICHMOND - Not registering to vote will no longer keep you off jury lists in Indiana. If you drive or pay residential income taxes in Indiana, you'll be in the pool (*Richmond Palladium-Item*). The new lists are a cooperative venture by the Indiana Supreme Court, the

Department of Revenue and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Besides developing a broader pool of jurors, the consolidated list of residents should provide significant savings to counties.

Jack Demaree dies

MUNCIE - Retired banker Jack H. Demaree, a community volunteer, World War II combat pilot and former elected county commissioner, died Monday at his winter home in southwest Florida (*Muncie Star Press*). The cause of death was congestive heart failure, a family member said. Demaree was 80. Politically, Demaree began serving as Delaware County election campaign coordinator for Republican U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar in the 1970s.

Daleville school project rejected by state

MUNCIE - The lack of a favorable recommendation from the Indiana Local Tax Control Board for Daleville Community School Corp.'s proposed renovations should end the district's quest for the \$5 million project, some Salem Township residents say (*Muncie Star Press*).

Seymour to consider smoking ban

SEYMOUR - A proposed smoking ban has elicited differing opinions from citizens, and Common Council members plan to hold a meeting to seek public input (*Columbus Republic*). Common Council member and governmental affairs chair Mary Voss updated her fellow council members Monday night on the possibility of the city going smoke-free.

