

Political Report

V13 N9

Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

Thursday, Oct. 5, 2006

GOP's 'weekendus horribilus'

3 CD races shift to 'Leans Dem'

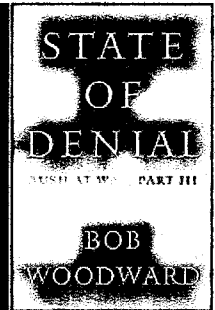
By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

ROCHESTER, Ind. - Twelve years and a week after moving three Democratic Congressional seats into "Tossup" as the 1994 Republican tsunami began to surge, The Howey Political Report is moving three Republican seats occupied by U.S. Reps. Chris Chocola, Mike Sodrel and John Hostettler out of "Tossup" and into "Leans Democrat."

On Wednesday, Zogby International became the latest of independent media polls that show Hoosier Republican incumbents in serious jeopardy of defeat. In the 2nd CD, Joe Donnelly led Rep. Chocola 48-39 percent. In the 9th CD, Baron Hill led Rep. Sodrel 46-38 percent.

It follows what has to be one of the worst weekends for the GOP since Watergate's Saturday Night Massacre; one that pollster John Zogby called "weekendus horribilus" for Republicans. The Mark Foley e-mail/page scandal broke on Friday just as Bob Woodward was beginning his media tour for the book "State of Denial," which paints the Bush administration as warring within itself and out of touch as Iraq crumbled. Along with that came the surge of violence in Iraq that claimed the lives of 24 sol-

See page 3



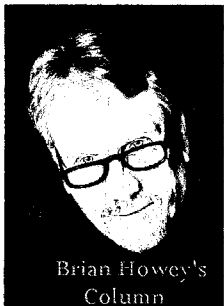
U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola at the Rochester debate; the Woodward book; Speaker Hastert; and Marine Cpl. Aaron Seal of Elkhart, killed in Baghdad on Sunday.

The Republicans and Hispanics

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

ROCHESTER, Ind. - Democrat Joe Donnelly complained during his debate with U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola about a commercial the incumbent Republican has been running. "You see this commercial with the Mexican flag behind me waving in the background," Donnelly said. Hispanics, he continued, "are the latest ethnic group they've decided to beat upon."

In the Chocola TV ad titled "Disagree," Chocola says that he supported President Bush "to cut taxes and protect our nation from terrorists, but on immigration we just disagree."



Brian Howey's Column

See page 2

“QUOTE
of the Week”



“Regardless of our reservations about how this matter was handled, we believe Speaker Hastert is a man of integrity. Speaker Dennis Hastert should not resign.”

- U.S. Rep. Mike Pence



Chocola says the Bush immigration plan was "just not tough enough." Of Donnelly, the ad says, "Joe Donnelly, he supports a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants. That's amnesty." The ad says that Donnelly "rewards 12 million illegals with citizenship."

And Donnelly said that while "we need secure borders," he is against "amnesty."

Chocola said during the debate "In no way do I support amnesty as a path to citizenship."

This exchange reminded me of another that took place four years ago between Elkhart Mayor Dave Miller, who's seen his city's Hispanic population grow, and U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and then White House Budget Director Mitch Daniels.

Miller said to Lugar, "Immigration, as it exists between the United States and Mexico, is flooding our country and affecting every one of our communities. Our largest minority is now Latinos and it's changing our culture, our language and, I fear, our politics. What kind of changes do you see happening; what is the administration doing to close this revolving door?"

Lugar responded, "At the end of the day Americans may decide we want to secure our borders and change immigration policy. We've gone back and forth on that historically. On the other hand, President Vicente Fox is counting upon his relationship with President Bush for a new chapter of development with Mexico. In many ways the president of Mexico has been disappointed."

In the 2000 election, President Bush polled 35 percent of the Latino vote, increasing to 44 percent in 2004. There are no statistics on how Daniels did with Latino voters in 2004. "This is one of those important questions to work out a message in

Features

HPR Forum Signup ends Friday	p. 5
The Foley Fallout in 8/9CIDs	p. 4
Ad wars beging in HD86, 20	p. 8
Columnists: James, Bennett, Tully	p. 9
Horse Race: Hill, Donnelly up	p. 10
Ticker Tape: Daniels refutes So. Shore story	p. 14

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

Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington Writer
Mark Curry, 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.

©2006, 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.



the years just ahead of us," Daniels said. "Immigration to America is an enormous advantage that we have. It is not immigration from Mexico that is problematic per se. It could be some very wrong-headed ideas, sometimes under the label of multi-culturalism, a mosaic, a melting pot, a notion that we can operate effectively in our communities without one language, one dominant language."

But, Daniels said, "Immigration has kept this country young, it has enriched this country throughout our history. In many, many cases I think these folks are better Americans than some of the folks who preceded them. I think the real issue is to hold on to the precious American invention that we've never ethnically been

one country. We have always been united by ideas. As long as we can sustain that idea and the obligations of citizens, no matter where they come from, we'll be a lot better off than those countries which do throw up protective walls."

Daniels was right about this being a political situation of the future. That future is now. In Indiana (with 80,000 Latino voters and an estimated 80,000 citizen non-voters), this year, U.S. Reps. Chocola and John Hostettler, fighting for their political lives, have deemed immigration to be a wedge issue on which elections are won or lost.

They back a House bill that essentially advocates the deportation of all illegals. As Rep. Hostettler noted in the *National Journal*, "What the Senate is proposing is to take this same organization (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) and add between 11 and 20 million people to its current workload instantaneously.



This is like awarding a PhD to a high school dropout who has failed to pass the GED. The agency has neither the personnel nor the infrastructure to process an additional 10 to 20 million applications. I would go one step further and suggest that USCIS could never implement S. 2611 without fully compromising national security. In a word, it's madness."

But there is another kind of madness: Rounding up 11 to 20 million people and deporting them. It would swamp every police agency, jail and court in America. And even a third kind, which is that in Hostettler's 12 years in Congress, almost nothing (other than legislating a new 700-mile long fence) has been done to find a solution.

Then there is Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, who along with U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison has offered a compromise. "Our plan puts border security first and cracks down on those who knowingly hire illegal workers, but it also recognizes the need for a temporary worker program that operates without amnesty and harnesses the power of the private sector to avoid creating a huge new government bureaucracy," Pence explained.

Undocumented residents currently in the U.S. must return to their country of origin in order to apply for participation in the Good Neighbor SAFE Visa Program,

Pence said. Undocumented residents currently in the U.S. will not receive an automatic path to citizenship by virtue of participating in the Good Neighbor SAFE Visa Program. However, participation in the program will not preclude participants from returning to their country of origin at any time, surrendering their Good Neighbor SAFE Visa, and applying for legal permanent residence under current law.



Chocola talks with a Latino voter in Rochester on Tuesday night. Below, Chocola and Donnelly shake hands before their debate. (HPR Photos by Brian A.

Former U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Arney of Texas joined Pence and Hutchison this past week and savaged conservative Republicans for taking the hard line on immigration, calling it "knee-jerk" opposition with an "emphasis on jerk."

"This has been rallied up by a lot of people that are very visible, make a lot of noise and have never been guilty of any deep thinking," Arney told reporters.

As I noted back in 2002, "There will be growing pains as Indiana transcends from a culture of black and white to an array of different hues and cultures coming to the polls."

There are fears within the GOP that the use of immigration as a wedge issue (following the campaign against gays in 2002) will ultimately result in the alienation of one of the state's fastest growing voting blocs for years to come. ♦

From page 1

diers, including two Hoosiers from Elkhart and Hammond (See page 14).

There has yet to be any media poll that shows any of the three GOP incumbents polling more than 42 percent. In mid-September, WISH-TV had Hill up 46-40 and Brad Ellsworth leading Hostettler 44-40. A week later, a South Bend Tribune/WFSB poll had Donnelly up 50-42. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll (Sept. 30-Oct. 2) showed President Bush's approval sagging to 39 percent. 32% think the war in Iraq is helping the U.S. in its ability to win the war on terrorism; 46% said it is hurting the U.S. in its ability to win the war on terrorism; 61% think Iraq is in a civil war.

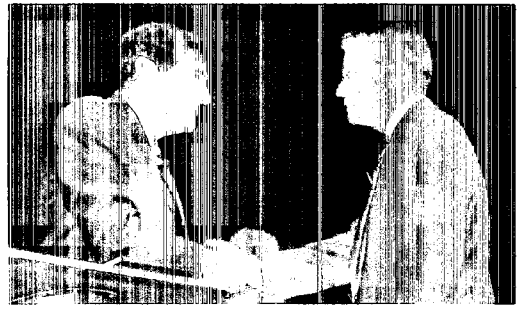
At Tuesday's Chocola/Donnelly debate in Rochester, the Foley scandal and the war quickly came into play. Donnelly said in his opening statement he was "horrified" by the Foley scandal and chided Chocola for not seeking Speaker Dennis Hastert's resignation. Donnelly called

Washington a "city out of control" and in need of a good old-fashioned "barn cleaning."

Asked about the Iraq War, Chocola immediately began talking about the broader War on Terror, telling the audience that 28 acts of terror were carried out against the U.S. since the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979. Chocola said the recent National Intelligence Estimate was misanalyzed by the New York Times and said that if the U.S. prevails in Iraq, "there will be fewer jihadists." Chocola said the "most effective tools of the War on Terror are not guns and bullets" but providing security.

Chocola said the next critical phase is the standing up of Iraqi national police by next January. "We will see in January if that is the case or not." But the very next day, the Iraq Interior Ministry suspended 800 Iraqi national police in Baghdad, accused of death squad activities.

Donnelly said that U.S. troops have performed valiantly, but there was a "lack of solid leadership in Washington. We need someone to hold their feet to the fire." He



Democrat Donnelly and Rep. Chocola shake hands before Tuesdays debate at Rochester. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

noted that Osama bin Laden is still at large and added that "we need to find him and kill him." He chided Vice President Dick Cheney for saying the Iraq insurgency was in its "last throes" more than a year ago.

Asked how the war was playing in his conservative town, **Rochester Sentinel** Editor Bill Wilson said, "It's like, if you don't like the preacher, you still go to church."

Between the news coming out of Baghdad and Washington, the scenario for Republicans seemed to go from bleak to a hemorrhage. Former congressman Joe Scarborough predicted the swearing in of "Speaker Nancy Pelosi."

The **Washington Times**, which called for Speaker Hastert's resignation, reported: "A social conservative may think, 'Well, Democrats aren't going to represent the legislation I want to see passed, but the Republicans aren't representing me,'" said Tom McClusky, vice president of government affairs at the Family Research Council. "They may just decide to stay home."

And the **Chicago Tribune's** Michael Tackett observed: "The intensity of the focus on Foley has served to blunt one of the few positive periods that the Republicans have enjoyed in this election season, which was the President's aggressive post-Labor Day push on fighting terrorism, coupled with the sharp drop in gasoline prices. The Foley controversy now dramatically and negatively reshapes the race for Republicans, leaving them with diminishing hopes of maintaining control of the House."

Nowhere in America were more eyes on the fallout from the two capital cities than here in Indiana. ❖

Battle for the House HPR Forecast: D 51, R 49

Likely Takeover (3-R)

- Woodruff (Battles)
- Heim (Dembowski)
- Bright (Cheatham)

Tossups (9-R; 1-D)

- Buell (Barnes)
- J. Smith (Herrell)
- Saunders (Sadler (D), and Bell (L))
- Open (Messer: Eberhart vs. Lux)
- Stutzman (Rorick)
- Harris (Hile)
- Walorski (Kovach)
- Ulmer (Puro)
- Open (Budak: Dermody vs. Renner)
- Orentlicher (Densborn)

Leans (6-R; 6-D)

- Lehe (Sutton)
- Hinkle (Olds)
- Davis (Liggett)
- Lutz (Mengelt)
- Dodge (Rauen)
- Open (Ayres: Soliday v. Graham (D))
- Hoy (A. Smith)
- Micon (Easham)
- Crooks (Arnold)
- Austin (Metzger)
- Tincher (Dallas)
- Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning)

Likely (3-R; 2-D)

- Bosma (Fuldauer)
- Borders (Bledsoe)
- Open (Thomas: Thomas v. Thompson (D))
- Open (Stemler v Theobald)
- Denbo (Patton)

Safe (30-R; 40-D)

(30 Republican) Gutwein, Wolkins, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Buck, Torr, Whetstone, T. Brown, Foley, Frizell, Behning, Murphy, Noe, Pond, Borrer, Bell, Espich, Ripley, Crouch, Duncan, Koch, Open (Yount: M. Smith), Burton, Cherry, Leonard, Neese

(36-Democrats) Avery, Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Pelath, Cheney, Grubb, Stevenson, Open (Aguilera: Reardon), Dobis, V. Smith, Kuzman, Bardon, Tyler, Reske, Kersey, Welch, Pierce, Goodin, Robertson, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, Open (B. GiaQuinta, P. GiaQuinta), Moses, Dickinson, Avery, VanHaften, Day, Summers, Mays, Crawford, Mahern, Porter, Klinker (Rhoda), Pflum (Bell), Fry (Hiler), Bischoff (Ulrich)

Movement: Denbo, Stemler and Thomas from "Leans" to "Likely." ❖



Democrats hope Foley odor wafts into Southern Indiana

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON--Southern Indiana Democrats hope that the odor emanating from the scandal involving former GOP Rep. Mark Foley will waft toward Republican Reps. Mike Sodrel (9th CD) and John Hostettler (8th CD), putting a stench on them as they battle to hold onto hotly contested seats that could play a large role in determining control of the House of Representatives.

Although direct connections between the incumbents and Foley are tenuous at best, Democratic challengers Baron Hill (9th CD) and Brad Ellsworth (8th CD) are trying to tar all Republicans -- especially their opponents -- with the same brush.

"It's the epitome of why we need change in Washington," said Jay Howser, Ellsworth's campaign manager.

Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert has maintained that Foley lied to him about the nature of his communication with the youngsters when Hastert questioned him earlier this year. But in the latest development, the chief of staff to Rep. Thomas Reynolds, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, resigned on Wednesday after saying that he had alerted Hastert's office as early as 2003 that Foley was making inappropriate contact with pages. Democrats are accusing House Republicans of covering up the Foley situation in order to protect a valuable Florida seat and a strong fundraiser. Hill has made the most explicit attack related to Foley, calling on Sodrel to return tens of thousands of dollars Sodrel has received from House leaders.

Michael O'Connor, a Hill consultant, said that the Foley incident is one more in a string of ethical problems for the GOP. Previous foibles have involved financial and political scandals. The sexual overtones of the Foley incident put it in a different league. "This is a much more sickening corruption," said O'Connor. He asserts that it taints all Republicans, including Sodrel. "If we need a change in leadership, maybe we need a change in who's voting for that leadership."

Sodrel camp dismisses 'juvenile' attacks

Sodrel's campaign said that the former bus and trucking company executive has deep roots in the district that will help him withstand Hill's attacks. "His attempts to connect Mike to this thing are juvenile and are not work-

ing," said Cam Savage, a Sodrel spokesman. "He's trying to connect dots that just don't connect. The people of southern Indiana know Mike Sodrel and his family."

Indeed, the high name ID of all four combatants in the 8th and 9th -- three hold a political office now and one was in Congress until two years ago -- makes it difficult to define them by their party leaders. "I'm not sure they're getting the punch out of the guilt by association appeal that they were hoping for," said Robert Dion, assistant professor of political science at the University of Evansville. One reason that Hostettler and Sodrel have carved familiar

figures in the region is because of their reliance on so-called values voters. Hostettler has a loyal and dependable army of supporters who help him squeak out victories. Sodrel captured the 9th CD seat from Hill in 2004 by about 1,400 votes in a race that focused heavily on a social agenda.



Sheriff Ellsworth and Rep. Hostettler shake hands prior to their debate last night in Vincennes. (Vincennes University Photo)

Appealing to conservatives

The Foley scandal, which involves a congressman who made a name for himself on child protection issues, may discourage the conservative base. A lack of enthusiasm by that swath of the electorate could pose a danger for Hostettler and Sodrel. "Just a small change in turnout could make a big difference," said Dion. Mobilizing right-wing voters has

been "made more difficult by this moral meltdown."

An NRCC spokesman, however, says that the Foley scandal has no bearing on Hoosier contests. "These are still local races based on competing agendas," said Ed Patru.

That's a field Sodrel wants to play on. "His values and voting record are much closer to the people of southern Indiana than Baron Hill's," said Savage. "We're happy to run on our record. Conservative values voters are going to be turned off by Baron Hill's double talk."

O'Connor said that Hill has taken steps in this year's race to make sure that voters understand his positions on social issues are in sync with theirs. Although Republicans talk about values, their actions, as demonstrated by Foley, don't live up to their words, he said. "It has a big impact on values voters," said O'Connor. "At the very least it depresses them."

The Sodrel campaign is making clear to those voters that Sodrel, who supports a criminal investigation of the Foley incident, is just as upset as they are. "Mike comes at this from the perspective of a father and grandfather," said Savage. "He's appalled and disgusted."

Democrats are likely to continue their attempts to link all Republicans to Foley, and perhaps create a wave that, combined with Iraq, might wash out the GOP. ♦



Political Report

Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

2006 HPR Forum Registration ends Friday

Tuesday, Oct. 10

Columbia Club, Indianapolis

8:15 a.m. Opening remarks by Brian A. Howey of HPR and Dan Seitz of BoseTreacy Associates.

8:30 a.m. Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar, discussing the War on Terror, Iraq, North Korea, Iran, national security and energy insecurity. Introduction by Chris Katterjohn, Indianapolis Business Journal

9:30 a.m. Evan Bayh's Presidential Prospects Panel: Brian A. Howey, Mark Schoeff Jr. and Mark Curry of HPR; Michael O'Connor of BoseTreacy, James Pindell, Boston Globe. Introduction by Glenda Russell of Indiana Lawyer. Moderated by Patricia McGuffey, BoseTreacy Associates.

10:30 a.m. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, discussing the war, energy and immigration. Introduction by John Stowell, Duke Energy.

11:30 a.m. Lunch

12:15 p.m.: Keynote by 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer. Introduction by 2nd CD Democratic nominee Joe Donnelly.

1 p.m. Assessing the Daniels Administration in Year Two. Brian A. Howey; Doug Ross, Times of Northwest Indiana; Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune; Peter Schnitzler, Indianapolis Business Journal; Morton J. Marcus, Indiana University Kelley School of Business. Introduction by Tom Fruechtenicht, BoseTreacy Associates. Moderated by Tom Fruechtenicht.

1:45 p.m. Ethics and the Battle for the Indiana House. Tim Jeffers of the House Democrats and Mike Gentry of the House Republicans. Introduction by Don Blinzinger, BoseTreacy Associates. Moderated by Brian A. Howey.

2:30 p.m. The Coming Senate Leadership Changes. Brian A. Howey; Niki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette; David Kitchell, Logansport Pharos-Tribune; RiShawn Biddle, Indianapolis Star; and Abdul-Hakim Shabazz from WXNT-AM. Moderated by Carolyn Elliott, BoseTreacy Associates.

Cost: \$75 for current HPR subscriber; \$100 for non-subscriber; \$350 for new HPR subscriber; \$120 for HPR subscriber seeking 6.4 hours of Continuing Legal Education and 1.0 hours of ethics; \$150 for non-subscriber CLE.

To Register: Call 317-254-0535 or go to the HPR website at www.howeypolitics.com and click on the Forum banner under the masthead. **Registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 6.** ♦

Political Report
BOSE TREACY ASSOCIATES, LLC

2006 HPR Forum
Indiana Crossroads
War, Security, & Energy
Tuesday, October 10, 2006
8:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Columbia Club
Indianapolis, IN

Visit www.howeypolitics.com
or call 317-254-0535
for registration information

6.4 CLE credit hours,
including 1.0 hour of
ethics credit

INDIANA JOURNAL INDIANA LAWYER
SDLZ



The House ad wars commence

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

There are always ads that seem to be over the top. Twelve years ago, it was Mike Young insisting that welfare mothers were renting limousines to drive to the 7/11 to buy Huggies. In 2004, there were the health care for life and gay marriage ads aimed at State Rep. John Frenz.

In this cycle, it was the House Republicans crying foul first. They point to a direct mail piece from State Rep. David Orentlicher aimed at Republican Kathryn Densborn (see right). They read, "We could cure her disease ... but Kathryn Densborn opposes life-saving stem-cell research."

Republican State Chairman J. Murray Clark was fuming Wednesday afternoon. "There he goes again," Clark said. He recalled the Orentlicher 2002 challenge to State Rep. Jim Atterholt and gun ads. "Jim didn't respond in kind and lost. When the smoke cleared, Orentlicher issued a mea culpa saying he wouldn't do it again."

The stem cell ads are an attempt to paint Densborn as an "extremist," Clark said. "If you know Kathryn Densborn, you know she's not an extremist. She's talked about jobs, safe neighborhoods and education. Clearly they are out to make her out as an extremist."

"There's a corpse with a sheet; it's pretty graphic," said Densborn on WTHR-TV. "I am not going to lie down and play dead."

Rep. Orentlicher defended the ad on WTHR-TV, telling reporter Kevin Rader that "medical research can save lives." Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker responded to Clark's claim that Densborn is not an extremist.

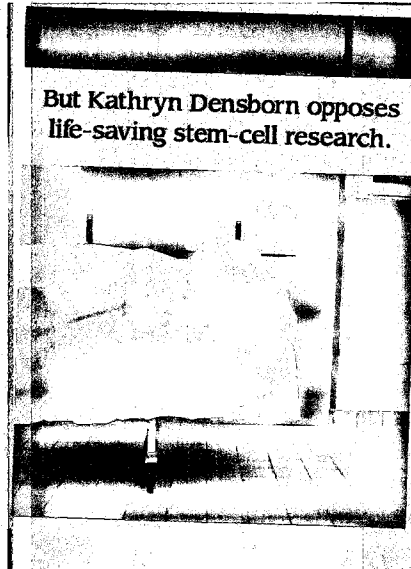
"On this issue, yes," Parker said.

Clark acknowledged that Densborn does believe in limitation to embryonic stem cells. "But the science is evolving almost by the minute," Clark said, adding that Orentlicher is practicing "gratuitous, gutter politics."

In Northern Indiana, State Rep. Jackie Walorski has gone on the attack with a TV ad that accuses her oppo-



We could cure her disease...



But Kathryn Densborn opposes life-saving stem-cell research.

nent, former State Sen. and Mishawaka mayor Bob Kovach, of rewriting state lobby laws, then going out to fancy dinners with lobbyists back in 1979. The distinction here is this is a 60 percent GOP district, and yet the incumbent Republican is on the assault, suggesting they are seeing numbers that are troubling.

In HD20, where Chicago TV is prohibitively expensive, Republican Tom Dermody and Democrat Andrea Renner are using direct mail and billboards. Renner has a billboard on the "Spanish-Australian Toll Road" with a tag line that reads "Send Mitch a Message: Vote for Andrea Renner."

Other TV ad campaigns are under way by Republican Reid Dallas and aimed at State Rep. Vern Tinchler in the Terre Haute market, and on behalf of State Rep. Troy Woodruff (Evansville), Andrew Smith (Evansville) and Rep. Steve Heim (South Bend). Republican Connie Basham is up on TV in Lafayette. ♦



Bayh ready to rumble

By **MARK CURRY**

WASHINGTON - In the past year or so Sen. Evan Bayh has worked to make a name for himself by traveling the Democratic Party's rubber chicken circuit through 22 states, often speaking at Jefferson-Jackson dinners or during smaller gatherings such as fund raisers and more intimate events. In the key presidential states of Iowa and New Hampshire he has labored a total of 29 days on behalf of party organizations and candidates.

Today and tomorrow the senator weighs in on the Indiana midterms with visits to support Democratic congressional candidates in three of the most closely watched



aces in the country. He's also promised to deliver a check to the state's Democratic Party in the amount of \$100,000.

This morning he appeared at events in Mishawaka and La Porte in the 2nd Congressional District with Joe Donnelly before heading south to Terre Haute, where he will stage a press conference with 8th CD nominee Brad Ellsworth. Tomorrow he teams with Ellsworth for a media event in Evansville, and then travels to New Albany where he and Baron Hill of Indiana's 9th will present yet another press conference.

In the past several weeks Indiana's junior senator had stated intentions to support Hoosier Democratic campaigns, but dates were not made available until Monday when National Journal's Hotline blog featured the announcement.

"Bayh will also campaign for IN statehouse candidates and plans to appear in television spots on their behalf," the Hotline article read. "A Bayh spokesman stresses that Bayh 'is not going to be decisive in these races,' but attributes some of their competitiveness to the trail Bayh blazed as a two-term governor." The blog further notes the senator will travel in support of candidates in Ohio, Kentucky, Iowa, Nevada and Illinois.

It wasn't until late yesterday morning that All America PAC, Bayh's leadership PAC, released a media advisory detailing the former governor's agenda during his return to the Hoosier state.

"**Press conference on Efforts to Stop Unfair Trade**" was Bayh's first stop this morning at the United Steel Workers Union Hall in Mishawaka. Following the media event both Bayh and Donnelly met with union workers who manufacture Humvees at AM General. "Greet Diners and Coffee at Louie's Restaurant" in La Porte was to follow.

This afternoon's event with Ellsworth is billed as a "Press conference on Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations" at the Vigo County Courthouse at 2:30. Tomorrow both Democrats plan to stage a similar event at Evansville Regional Airport's main terminal at 10:45 a.m.

Hill and Bayh will appear at yet another press conference on the 9/11 recommendations in New Albany at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Sen. Bayh's \$100,000 contribution to the Indiana Democratic Party is more than double the total financial support he has offered fellow Hoosiers thus far in the current election cycle. In addition to a \$25,000 check already delivered to the state party the senator has contributed as much as \$10,000 to several candidates, including the three

closest congressional races (See HPR, Sept. 21). According to data available at the Federal Election Commission website, Sen. Bayh's leadership PAC has contributed more than \$120,000 to Democratic committees and candidates in the 2005-2006 election cycle through the end of June.

Last Saturday through Monday Bayh undertook a tour of Iowa to appear at fundraisers and other events on behalf of local Democratic organizations and candidates. "Sen. Bayh came out to help draw a crowd essentially and he did a wonderful job of that," according to Ben Foecke, campaign manager for Merle Johnson, a candidate for the Iowa state senate. Bayh supported Johnson's campaign at an event in Ankeny, a northern suburb of Des Moines, on Sunday evening. It was one of nine such events over the course



of the trip.

Carrie Tedore and her husband Scott co-hosted a similar to-do in Dubuque during the Saturday night gridiron matchup between the Iowa State Hawkeyes and Ohio State Buckeyes. Tedore also was unaware how much was raised during her event, but she was quite certain Sen. Bayh made a positive impression.

"He was the guest of honor and he did say a few words," Tedore told HPR of the event that drew 60 people. "He is a very engaging speaker. He spoke about the need for change and what's gone wrong and he was very motivating as a matter of fact."

"The guests stayed through the Hawkeye game so I got to speak to a lot of them and they were very impressed," the hostess said. "Some came to the event just knowing the name and they left knowing the man. It was a really wonderful thing. I think it was great for him and I think it was great for the [local] Democratic leadership."

According to Tedore, the guests' "jaws hit the floor" when Bayh discussed Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Program. "People couldn't believe that actually wasn't just a dream, that was actually a reality," she said.

Bayh's office has yet to announce the who, what, when and where portion of his plans to campaign for Indiana statehouse races. HPR forecasts a close contest for control in both the House and Senate, and the former governor's popularity remains high among critical demographic segments (see HPR, Sept. 21). Bayh's support could spur persuadable voters and Democrats who might otherwise stay at home to cast deciding ballots in several key matchups, not the least of which is Senate District 41, where Republican Greg Walker leads Democrat Terry Coriden in the battle for Bob Gorton's former seat. ♦



Mark Bennett, Terre Haute Tribune-Star - If undecided Hoosiers watching Wednesday night's John Hostettler-Brad Ellsworth debate were waiting for a "you're no Jack Kennedy" zinger to help them choose between the two congressional candidates, they probably went to bed unsure. The small live audience inside the WVUT studios included two young undecided voters from Terre Haute, and they left the same way. With a month left before the Nov. 7 election, Ellsworth and Hostettler may still have to convince those yet to make up their minds. Did they distinguish themselves on Wednesday? "No, I felt like they kept saying the same things," said Michelle Jordan, an 18-year-old Indiana State University freshman from Terre Haute. She trekked to Vincennes for Wednesday's debate, organized by the League of Women Voters, without having chosen. When pressed if she was closer to a decision, Jordan favored Ellsworth. "I just liked his attitude a little bit better," Jordan said. But one seat over sat Katherine Rompf, an 18-year-old senior from Terre Haute North Vigo High School. Like Jordan, Rompf did not think the two men persuaded her to pick. But, if forced, she is leaning toward Hostettler. "I'm thinking maybe because he was more experienced," she explained, "but it would be good to have someone new." When Ellsworth agreed with Hostettler on topics, such as bringing troops home from the Iraq war as soon as possible, Hostettler made a point to note that to viewers. At the outset, he accused Ellsworth of trying to "sound like John Hostettler." As they stood on the set, waiting for the debate to begin, both men were left in awkward silence for nearly 5 minutes as the audience sat quietly. Before it began, they made little eye contact. Ellsworth, in a dark suit and striped tie, listened while Hostettler, also in a dark suit and solid tie, opened his remarks by claiming that the sheriff's only certain vote as a potential congressman would be to back the Democrats' only likely speaker of the House candidate, liberal Nancy Pelosi. Ellsworth, who later pointed out the number of times Hostettler had voted in agreement with Pelosi, opened his remarks by saying that Washington politicians had stopped listening to the people in their district. ♦

Rich James, Post-Tribune- Indiana House Speaker Brian Bosma and some of his colleagues stopped by a few weeks back to boast about what they have accomplished during the first two years of Gov. Mitch Daniels' administration and talk about the future. There was a sense of urgency. They know chances of retaining their narrow control of the House are about as good as the Chicago Cubs winning a World Series -- sometime in the next 50 years. The GOP campaign theme is "56 in '06," meaning they hope to gain four more House seats. Pretty much a pipe dream. After a lengthy discussion about a variety of

issues, the conversation turned to the lease of the Indiana Toll Road. That's when urgency turned to paranoia. When Republicans caucused behind closed doors before the vote on the Toll Road lease, Bosma said it was a highly emotional atmosphere. "People were crying," Bosma said, adding that some knew a vote to lease the road could be political suicide. And you thought Republicans only cried when the stock market slumped. In the end, Bosma said it was a matter of doing what was right for the state or doing what was needed to win re-election. Remarkably, the people of Indiana won out. I almost felt sorry for Bosma and company until I was reminded that there was something oxymoronic about Republicans and compassionate conservatives. While it would be healthy for Indiana if Democrats

took control of the House, it would be unfortunate if the Toll Road issue was the cause. I sometimes think single-issue voters ought to be barred from the polls or, at the least, have each of their votes count only as one-half. Some northern Indiana Republicans are talking about voting for a Democrat in legislative races because of the Toll Road issue. They are talking about doing that even though many millions of dollars already have poured into their towns and cities for roads and other projects. What is it about some Hoosiers and their disdain for change? Why does anyone care who runs the Toll Road? It's a road. It's inanimate. And it's not going anywhere. Given the job Indiana has done in running that road, I've got to think the Spanish-Australian venture will do a better job. And does anyone think there would have been even a peep if the state had leased the road to the Indiana Farm Bureau? ♦

Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star - In some strange way, it's hard not to feel a little sorry for Greg Walker. The state Senate candidate grabbed quite a bit of attention back in May when he defeated Senate boss Bob Garton in the GOP primary. But since then, Walker has received more attention for his decision in 2003 to write what's become the most infamous letter to the editor in state political history. Walker's letter to a Columbus paper included his bizarre musings on the art of public flogging. We won't repeat Walker's pro-flogging words here, but be assured they are inflicting serious political damage on him. Walker knows it. So as he delivered his opening statement during a candidates' debate at Franklin College last week, he took a nervous shot at damage control. "You need to get past the name calling," Walker said. "Oh, you've all heard it: I'm 'The Flogger.'" Indeed, he is. He always will be. The flogging issue will follow the Columbus accountant forever, like a big stick hanging over his head. That's why it's hard not to hope Walker, for his own sake, loses to Democratic attorney Terry Coriden on Nov. 7. In Statehouse halls, he'd always be Sen. Flogger. ♦





Zogby has Donnelly, Hill up

Trendline No. 1: Zogby International released a series of tracking polls in 15 seats currently held by Republicans in Congress, but considered vulnerable for takeover. Of those 15, Democrats held leads in 11 of the contests. Notable among the races: Tammy Duckworth (D) leads Peter Roskam (R) 43%-38% in the battle for the open IL8 seat, while Zack Space (D) leads Joy Padgett (R) 45%-36% in the battle for the seat held by OH18 Rep. Bob Ney (R). In the CT5 contest, the polls shows Rep. Chris Shays (R) trailing challenger Diane Farrell (D) 46%-41%. In the race for IN9 seat, Baron Hill (D) seems well-positioned to take back the seat from Rep. Mike Sodrel (R), who defeated him in 2004. Commenting on the surveys, pollster John Zogby said, "If these numbers hold there could be very good news for Democrats this year. Of these 15 Republican-held seats, Democrats lead in 11, while Republicans lead in 4. Nine of the 11 Democratic leads are by five points or more and of the nine Republican incumbents involved, 8 have negative re-elects -- all of which are under 40%. The formula for Democratic victory: in each case where Democrats lead, the candidates are winning near or above 80% of their own party vote and they are leading among independents." The survey series interviewed at least 500 adults by telephone in each district between Sept. 25 and Oct. 2.



Trendline No. 2: Indiana House Republican leaders today announced a collection of education initiatives for next year, including revamping the ISTEP test and classroom security (Indianapolis Star). They advocate: Requiring federal background checks for all staff who work in classrooms; Moving the ISTEP test from the fall to the spring and giving schools the option of administering periodic shorter tests throughout the year to gauge student progress; Awarding more local block grants for schools to pay for summer school programs, professional development courses, equipment and other initiatives; Creating tax credits for businesses who donate to private school scholarship programs or other similar organizations; Offer income tax credits of up to \$3,000 to the families of low-income students who are high achievers and are enrolled in K-12 private schools.

Trendline No. 3: House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer responded: "Now, in these last few weeks prior to the November 7 general election, the House Republicans have said they have a commitment to helping Indiana's schoolchildren. Their newfound enthusiasm comes a

little too late for the people of Indiana. Indiana House Democrats believe our first priority in education in Indiana should be to find more state funding for our public schools so we can improve the quality of education for our children and reduce the reliance on property taxes. We will support serious consideration of full-day kindergarten, along with preschool programs to help prepare our children for the future, and the possible elimination of the textbook tax that plagues all parents of schoolchildren.

Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. Democrat: 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:** Zogby/Reuters poll has Donnelly leading Chocola 48-39 percent. This is the second media poll showing Donnelly with a lead outside the margin of error, therefore this race moves from Tossup to Leans D. The Mark Foley episode is not good news for Chocola. We believe he is in real danger of losing this seat. Former congressman John Brademas, campaigning here for Democrat congressional contender Joe Donnelly, said Congress has changed for the worse since his days in the Capitol (Wentz's **South Bend Tribune**). "What is particularly striking to me -- as is



Democrat Joe Donnelly and campaigning manager Katie Nee. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Political Report

obviously observed by the American people — is the lack of civility, of comity, of respect for different views that now characterizes the nation's capital," Brademas said. "What is, I think, significant about what has been happening in recent years, during the administration of the present George Bush," Brademas said, "is that Congress has been acting more like the national legislature in a parliamentary system, that is to say, slavishly supporting the policies of the executive, George Bush." Brademas said that is particularly true of incumbent U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, whom he said has voted with President Bush 94 percent of the time and followed the "Republican Party line" 98 percent of the time. "Your congressman is a rubber stamp for George Bush!" Brademas said, who called Bush "monumentally incompetent." **Status: LEANS DEMOCRAT**

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:** Hayhurst has begun to advertise on South Bend television, the first time we can remember a 3rd CD Democratic challenger doing so. Souder will have indigestion after neighboring colleague Chris Chocola repeatedly said he backs term limits. Democrats and members of the news media say that in 1994, Souder and U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer said they supported term limits. Hayhurst addressed Democrats at the Thomas Marshall Dinner in Columbia City. "I see energy in Kosciusko County when I go door to door and speak to residents about issues such as affordable health-care and feel the community is behind me," Hayhurst said (**Columbia City Post & Mail**). He said if he were elected he would support federal government negotiation with drug companies to secure the highest-quality, lowest-cost medications for more than 41 million seniors on Medicare. Hayhurst also said he would fight to guarantee veterans receive the same kind of medical care offered to members of Congress, and fight to save inpatient beds at the Fort Wayne Veterans Administration Hospital. He also said he will work to create and keep jobs throughout northeast Indiana. "Kosciusko County is blessed with orthopedics and we need to stabilize, support and expand the industry," Hayhurst said. He said he will advance a policy of fair trade in all international trade agreements and defend American workers and their jobs. Hayhurst said he is campaigning for a national commitment for energy independence and a comprehensive plan to advance it.

Status: LEANS SOUDER

Congressional District 8: Republican:

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **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. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** We keep hearing that Hostettler is not keeping a weekend campaign schedule (going as far back as Labor Day). With the Foley fiasco, the war and the WISH-TV poll a couple weeks ago showing Ellsworth ahead, we move this seat from Tossup to Leans Democrat. Neither Republican incumbent John Hostettler nor Democratic challenger Brad Ellsworth was a clear winner in the 8th District congressional debate, according to two political science professors. Robert Dion, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Evansville, and Mary Hallock Morris, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Southern Indiana, watched the debate on TV and said it was pretty much a draw. The candidates answered questions ranging from health care to the war in Iraq to terrorism during a televised debate Wednesday at Vincennes University. Overall, neither seemed to outperform the other, and they agreed on a number of the issues, the professors said. "If this were a prize fight, Hostettler might win on points," Dion said. "But it would be a close decision." Dion said both candidates appeared capable, but Hostettler performed better in a couple areas. He said Hostettler seemed to offer more specifics on issues and did a good job in highlighting his congressional career, mentioning numerous times his work on the Judiciary and Armed Services committees. Morris said Hostettler focused on his experience, while Ellsworth emphasized the community and the district's constituents. The Democratic and Republican parties and other entities have poured roughly \$2.4 million into the southwestern Indiana district, where Hostettler is in a tough battle against Ellsworth (**Indianapolis Star**). A House race in Central New York is the next biggest recipient of spending not going directly to campaigns, at \$1.5 million. Two other Indiana races — the 2nd District in north-central Indiana and the 9th District in the southeastern part of the state — are also receiving large sums of



Political Report

money and could be crucial in the fight for control of the U.S. House. Democrats need to win 15 more seats to take back control. Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper, recently reported that Republicans might have to cut some vulnerable Republicans loose in order to save those with a better chance of winning. Hostettler, the paper reported, is one of the GOP candidates most often speculated about as a losing cause. "We don't broadcast strategy, but there's no plan to pull out," Patru said. Calling himself "adamantly opposed" to privatizing any part of Social Security, Ellsworth said Ellsworth reiterated his opposition to the proposal that would allow workers under age 55 to divert some of their Social Security contributions into a private account. **Status: LEANS DEMOCRAT**

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill. **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:** Zogby/Reuters poll has Hill leading Sodrel 46-38 percent. This is the second media poll showing Hill with a lead outside the margin of error. With the Foley episode developing, we believe Sodrel is in real danger of losing this seat and therefore we move it from Tossup to Leans Democrat. Hill was endorsed by the VFW (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). "I usually don't get real worked up on endorsements because I don't think they mean a lot," Hill said at a press conference in Veterans' Plaza at Market and 10th streets in New Albany. "But this one means a lot to me." He added, "I am very proud to have this endorsement." Mounty Mount, a Korean War veteran and Crothersville VFW Post 1083 member who introduced Hill, said the former congressman "fought for improved veterans' benefits" while he was in the House. Mount said the VFW committee backs Hill for his support of "veterans, national security, defense and military personnel." The NRCC is running an ad on Indianapolis TV claiming that "Baron Hill voted against tax relief dozens of time." **Status: LEANS DEMOCRAT**

Legislative Races

House District 17: Republican: State Rep. Steve Heim. Democrat: Nancy Dembowski. **2004 Results:** Heim 14,100, McLiver (D) 8,321, Foley (I) 854. **SD5 Results:** Heinold (R) 24,753, Dembowski (D) 24,398. **2006 Forecast:** Heim is up on TV. **Status: LEANS D** (Likely

Takeover)

House District 20: Republican: LaPorte School Trustee Tom Dermody. Democrat: LaPorte City Councilwoman Andrea Renner. **2002 Results:** Budak 12,551, Gillon (L) 2,540. **2004 Results:** Budak 12,944, Spevak (D) 10,013, Schadowsky (L) 1,038. **2006 Forecast:** Dermody and Renner are both running radio. Renner has a billboard up on the "Spanish-Australian Indiana Toll Road" that says "Send Mitch a Message: Vote for Andrea Renner." **Status: TOSSUP**

House District 21: Republican: State Rep. Jackie Walorski. Democrat: Bob Kovach. **2002 Results:** Miangus 10,722. **2004 Results:** Walorski 13,753, Kaser (D) 7,737. **2006 Forecast:** Walorski is up on TV with a thousand points in the South Bend market. Her ad accuses Kovach, when he was in the Indiana Senate back in 1979, of passing legislation easing up on lobbyists and then accepting lunches. So the incumbent is on the attack, which is a twist to the usual MO. GOP's Mike Gentry says that she, Marlin Stutzman and Dick Dodge "are all in good shape." **Status: TOSSUP.**

House District 36: Republican: Francie Metzger. Democrat: State Rep. Teri Austin. **2002 Results:** Augustin 8,640, Kincaid (R) 7,918. **2004 Results:** Austin 14,170, Carrell (R) 8,669. **2006 Forecast:** Metzger is up on TV. Her ad says, "Meet a leader" and describes her as a school teacher, principal and an "award winning" educator. House Republicans think they can pick this seat off. Austin won narrowly in 2002. **Status: LEANS D.**

House District 46: Republican: Reid Dallas. Democrat: State Rep. Vern Tincher. **2002 Results:** LaPlante (R) 8,079, Tincher (D) 7,275. **2004 Results:** Tincher 11,533, LaPlante 10,799. **2006 Forecast:** Dallas is running a thousand points on Terre Haute TV. Says Gentry, "We wouldn't be running TV if we didn't think we could win it." **Status: LEANS D.**

House District 26: Republican: Tippecanoe County Councilwoman Connie Basham. Democrat: Joe Micon. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **2002 Results:** Scholer 5,630, Micon 4,731. **2004 Results:** Micon (D) 10,077, Basham (R) 9,471. **2006 Forecast:** Basham is up on TV. Republicans have her "within striking distance." Mike Gentry said, "We're still outside the margin of error." **Status: LEANS D**

House District 30: Republican: State Rep. John Smith. Democrat: Ron Herrell. **2002 Results:** Herrell (D) 9,017, Rudolph (R) 6,966, Fridholm (L) 379. **2004 Results:** Smith 12,398, Herrell (D) 11,279. **2006 Forecast:** Daimler-Chrysler is signalling its intent to construct a new tran **Status: TOSSUP.**

House District 49: Republican: State Rep. John Ulmer. Democrat: Mike Puro. **2004 Results:** Ulmer 17,592. **2006 Forecast:** Republicans seemed confident



about Walorski and Dermody. Didn't mention this seat. We think it's in play. Ulmer, who has a reputation of not spending a lot of time in the community in the past, announced three town hall meetings at Goshen, Middlebury and Bristol between Oct. 9 and 19. **Status: TOSSUP**

House District 51: Republican: State Rep. Dick Dodge Democrat: Joe Rau. **2002 Results:** Kruse (R) 10,157, Smith(L) 2,672. **2004 Results:** Dodge (R) 14,547, Mason (D) 8,343. **2006 Forecast:** Republicans believe Dodge is "in good shape." **Status: LEANS R.**

House District 52: Republican: State Rep. Marlin Stutzman. Democrat: LaGrange County Democratic Chairman Dennis Rorick. **2002 Results:** Stutzman (R) 6,950, Sturtz (D) 6,701. **2004 Results:** Stutzman (R) 12,872, DeLucenay (D) 6,496. **2006 Forecast:** House Republicans believe they will hold on to this seat. **Status: TOSSUP.**

House District 57: Republican: Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart. Democrat: J.D. Lux. **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004 **2006 Forecast:** House Republicans say that Eberhart has a double digit lead. Eberhart has picked up five endorsements including those from Indiana Right to Life, National Federation of Independent Businesses, and the Indiana Manufacturers Association. "Indiana Right to Life PAC will publicize this endorsement to pro-life voters in your district," said a letter from Mike Fichter, chairman. **Status: TOSSUP**

House District 64: Republican: State Rep. Troy Woodruff. Democrat: Kreg Battles. **2002 Results:** Frenz 10,516, Davis (R) 8,774. **2004 Results:** Woodruff 12,698, Frenz 12,507. **2006 Forecast:** Woodruff is running Evansville TV. **Status: LEANS D (Likely Takeover)**

House District 69: Republican: Billy Bright. Democrat: Dave Cheatham. **2002 Results:** Lytle 9,777, Newell 7,678. **2004 Results:** Bright 12,639, Lytle 11,018. **2006 Forecast:** Republicans say that Bright is "in for a tough race." Bright is running radio. **Status: LEANS D (Likely Takeover)**

House District 71: Republican: Joe Theobald. Democrat: Steven Stemler. **2002 Results:** Bottorff (D) 9,385, Singleton (R) 5,388. **2004 Results:** Bottorff (D) 17,949. **2006 Forecast:** Indiana Manufacturers Assn. endorsed Stemler. Republicans are not up on TV or radio in this race. **Status: LIKELY D**

House District 86: Republican: Kathryn Densborn. Democrat: State Rep. David Orentlicher. **2002 Results:** Orentlicher 9,909, Atterholt (R) 9,872. **2004 Results:** Orentlicher 15,178, Large (R) 13,261, Goldstein (L) 585. **2006 Forecast:** Densborn is up with a 1,000 point TV buy, saying she helped "Gov. Daniels cut the cost of government." Republicans say that Orentlicher had a "single digit lead" prior to the TV ads. **Status: TOSSUP.**

Senate District 22: Republican: State Sen. Ron Alting. Democrat: David C. Vorbeck. **2002 Results:** Alting 15,902, Sanders (D) 8,087. **2006 Forecast:** A Democrat running to be an Indiana senator wants to debate his opponent on the perks given to state lawmakers (Shaw, **Lafayette Journal & Courier**). David Vorbeck, managing director of Bison Financial Group, is running for the seat now held by State Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette. Vorbeck said Alting has given conflicting public statements when talking about the health care and pension plans available to state lawmakers. Many voters are angry at the generosity of those benefits, Vorbeck said. Alting said he repeatedly tried to persuade the man who now holds that position, Robert D. Garton, R-Columbus, to change the benefits but never succeeded. Garton was defeated in the May primary largely by voters who objected to the perks. Alting has said he won't support any candidate for Senate President Pro Tempore who won't reform the benefits. Meanwhile, he is writing legislation for the same purpose. **Status: TOSSUP.**

Senate District 41: Republican: Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. Libertarian: Kenn Gividen. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. **2002 Results:** Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006 Forecast:** Star columnist Matt Tully savages Walker (see Columnists, Page 9). At a debate in Columbus, the candidates were asked how local governments could work if property taxes were eliminated. Coriden said he supports a plan that takes away the portion of property taxes that funds city government and instead gives the city the option of starting a tax - such as sales or lodging - that would fund the city. "It puts the responsibility for running the budget and maintaining the budget right where it belongs, back with the city, back with the towns," Coriden said. Walker pledged he would assess no new taxes in Indiana as much as he is able. He said Indiana needs permanent solutions for property tax relief. He said holding local authorities accountable is the best way, but said efficiency and reducing government waste would ensure local governments had more funds. Coriden said America has the best health care system in the world, but many Hoosiers are unable to receive it. He said credits and inducements for the insurance industry, health care provider, employer and employee could provide for affordable health care. Walker said more responsibility needs to be placed on individuals to live healthier lifestyles in solving the problem, which he called sick care instead of health care. "One way we could do that that still has a comprehensive coverage for catastrophic illness is to create a health savings account," Walker said. "I support a marriage solely between a man and a woman. I do not support a civil union between gays," Coriden said. Walker also said he supports marriage between one man and one woman. He said a contract between two people is legal and consensual but is not a marriage. **Status: TOSSUP** ❖



'Zero interest' in selling

South Shore line, says Gov

MUNSTER -There are no plans to sell or lease the South Shore Line, Gov. Mitch Daniels' administration said Wednesday in a written statement. The statement followed a report in the Times of Northwest Indiana indicating the Republican governor's administration was considering privatization of the commuter line, similar to a recent 75-year lease of the Indiana Toll Road, an option the top executive of the railroad's ownership group twice has said was suggested by the state transportation commissioner. "The governor has zero interest in selling or leasing out the South Shore, and has no ability to do so if he did. State government does not even own the South Shore," Daniels Press Secretary Jane Jankowski said in a written statement, one that also criticized The Times' report on the issue. But comments from the top executive of the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, which owns and operates the South Bend-to-Chicago commuter railroad, seems to contradict the administration's stance. Gerald Hanas, the district's general manager, said he was asked to explore cash-generating privatization options about a month ago when he met with state Transportation Commissioner Tom Sharp. "He said, 'Look, we've gained some significant revenue under the P3 (public-private partnership) thing with the Toll Road. Is there any way you guys could look at options for P3 for the railroad? Is there anything that you could lease or sell or anything that would make any sense to leverage capital?'" Hanas said Wednesday, reiterating earlier remarks. "We said we'd research it." On Tuesday, the state Department of Transportation



denied such a conversation took place. Democrats, meanwhile, pounced on an opportunity to further criticize the Republican governor. "Mitch Daniels continues his efforts to turn our state into a discount store with a railroad used by thousands of commuters each year serving as the next blue light special," said House Minority Leader Pat Bauer, D-South Bend.

Hastert expected to assume blame

BATAVIA, Ill. - In a press conference scheduled for 1p.m. in Illinois, House Speaker Dennis Hastert plans to accept some measure of responsibility for failing to discover Rep. Mark Foley's misconduct with pages, a House official said this morning. "He is taking responsibility because the buck stops with him," the official said (**Hotline**).

Pence was shareholder in bankrupt company

MUNCIE - Republican Congressman Mike Pence was a shareholder in an oil and convenience store business that filed bankruptcy and now owes more than \$100 million to creditors, including \$9 million to local and state governments (**Yencer, Muncie Star Press**). Kiel Brothers Oil Co. and KP Oil Inc. filed for federal bankruptcy protection in 2004 after going out of business. Pence's oldest brother, Gregory, was the company's chief executive officer, and the congressman held stock and earned income from the company, according to federal financial disclosure statements. Democratic congressional challenger Barry Welsh this week raised the issue of the Pence family's involvement in the bankrupt business, putting a story on his campaign Web site complete with links to the bankruptcy

proceeding, Pence's financial disclosures and records of the company's environmental violations involving oil spills and underground storage tank regulations. Asked why he raised the issue, Welsh said, "The bankruptcy filing is not an issue with me." However, the Democrat added, "This is an issue with the taxpayers in these towns and counties." "In the competitive marketplace, sometimes businesses fail," Pence said about the bankruptcy.

Hammond soldier killed in Iraq; extended stay

HAMMOND - He was a 27-year-old man who never wanted to grow up and was never given the chance. Staff Sgt. Jonathan Rojas was shot in the head by a sniper Tuesday in Baghdad. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and he was supposed to be headed home two months ago. When asked, however, he agreed to stay a little longer, promising his family in Hammond that he'd see them for Christmas.

Indiana to house California prisoners

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels announced today he has authorized the Department of Correction to house up to 1,200 offenders from California in the underused New Castle Correctional Facility. Indiana will receive \$6.2 million per year to house the inmates and up to 200 new jobs will be created at the facility. ♦



This Could be Dangerous



Abdul & Howey, 9 a.m. Every Monday
webcast @ www.wxnt.com