



Berry faces GOP's race to independents

New Republican chairman takes office with party at apex, but needs to upgrade technology, reach

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – There is a bit of irony that tonight Indiana Republican Chairman Tim Berry will be appearing with his Democratic counterpart John Zody in Paul Helmke's Indiana University civic leaders class at Briscoe Hall.

It was Helmke's 1987 mayoral campaign that put Berry on the path to where he is today, chairing a state party that controls the governorship, four of five statewide offices, eight of 11 congressional seats as well as with super majorities in both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly.

Berry worked as a kid on Fort Wayne Mayor Robert Armstrong and the Congressional campaigns of Dan Quayle. While attending business school at Bowling Green University, he lost his way, working on behalf of indepen-



dent 1980 presidential candidate John Anderson (he would vote for President Reagan in 1984). But it was Fort Wayne Mayor Win Moses' indictment and plea deal over campaign finance violations, followed 10 days later by his restoration

Continued on page 3

What a default would bring

By **CRAIG DUNN**

KOKOMO - I want each of you to get in your wallet and take out a dollar bill. Look at it, read what it says and try and appreciate exactly what it is. It has absolutely no tangible value. You can't eat it, fashion it into shelter or make a pair of pants out of it.

It is nothing but a small piece of paper with a photo and some words and numbers on it. Although it's not much on appearance, the dollar bill does some amazing things. It allows us to avoid carrying a bag of gold or silver coinage to



“This lawsuit confirms the desire of our state’s Republican leadership to deny affordable care coverage to hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers.”

- State Rep. Ed DeLaney



is a non-partisan newsletter based in Indianapolis and Nashville, Ind. It was founded in 1994 in Fort Wayne.

It is published by
WWHowey Media, LLC
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Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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make purchases. It allows the farmer to go to town and shop without carrying a pig under his arm for bartering. You can pull one out in a foreign country and it almost will work as a passport. It bears the claim, "Legal and tender for all debts public and private."

Now picture a United States Treasury Bond. Only those of you with a few years on you can actually remember what a Treasury bond looks like. They've been issuing depository receipts as opposed to the parchment certificate for years. Regardless, the United States Treasury Bond is just another piece of paper. It shares the same limitations as currency in regards to its tangible value. The wording on the Treasury bond is a little different. It includes a reference to a guarantee by "the full faith and credit" of the United States of America. The Treasury bond also does some amazing things. In times of war it allows us to borrow funds from our citizens, foreign citizens and domestic and international entities so that we may arm ourselves for our protection. The Treasury bond allows us to finance services and investments that our duly elected representatives have decided are of importance to the American people. Treasury bonds are used as a storehouse of value for governments, corporations, banks, insurance companies and Social Security. They have traditionally been the safest form of an IOU given by any borrower anywhere on this planet.

These pieces of paper work and will only work in the future if we and the world at large accept them as representing a greater intrinsic value in them than the simple pieces of paper that they appear. It seems incredibly simple when they work, but can quickly become unfathomable should they fail.

I make no pretense to be anything other than a fiscal conservative. I believe that the huge run up in our National Debt is a crime against

our children and grandchildren. I believe that something must be done to greatly slow the rise in the National Debt or we will eventually experience such high levels of inflation as to economically destroy our country and our way of life. At our current pace of expenditures, economic Armageddon is a mathematical certainty. However, despite my fiscal conservatism, I also believe that flirting with a default on our outstanding debt carries unconscionable risks.

I live by the mantra that nothing is ever as good or as bad as it seems. The truth generally falls somewhere between in an area of grey. It is important for those who advocate for political brinksmanship to fully understand the risks of default. The following are just some of the potential risks of default:

■ Flight from Treasuries.

Investors around the world may sell their Treasury Bonds causing a dramatic decline in prices and a massive spike upward in interest rates. This will cause everyone to pay more for homes, autos and everything that is purchased with credit. Corporate profits will decline and stock markets will precipitously decline. It will be harder to save for college and retirements.

■ Money Markets may become grossly disrupted.

We saw this situation in September of 2008 when Lehman brothers collapsed. There is a very complex and sophisticated system of securities purchase and settlement that is supremely dependent on trust and confidence between the parties to a transaction. A breakdown of that confidence could dry up credit and virtually freeze our economy. This alone could move us from recession to depression overnight. We saved ourselves last time. Could we be lucky again?

■ The Federal Reserve would need to rewrite the rules of banking.

As it stands today, the Fed cannot accept defaulted securities as collateral. That means disruption at the discount



window and big time problems in the banking industry. How long would it take to address the problem and how much damage would be done by the time the Fed and the politicos got the problem solved?

■ Loss of reserve currency status. Trade between the nations of the world is efficient and possible because of the willingness to utilize the United States dollar as a means of exchange and conveyance between parties. If you live in Zanzibar and want to sell your widgets to Ireland, you can do it by both parties using the U.S. dollar. For this system to work, the dollar must be riskless. Without the dollar, we will revert to gold and silver and trade will dry up. Worldwide depression could be the result of this loss of faith in the dollar.

■ Our security's ratings will be downgraded. While no one thinks that the default on United States debt would be long-lasting or permanent, even a short-term default would have major implications on the willingness of investors to trust the United States with their hard earned savings. Worse still, what happens when oil exporters in the Middle East and manufacturers in China decide to put their profits into someone else's securities and not ours? You don't want to find out.

■ Our currency will become devalued. For the past few years, our country has been able to pile up enormous debt without seriously driving up inflation. The reason is

that the United States has been the prettiest girl at the ugly girl prom. With European and Asian market turmoil, the United States has become the only game in town. When we blow our credit stability, money will flow elsewhere and inflation will arrive with a vengeance. We're talking Weimar Republic type of inflation. That type of inflation always ends badly, both economically and politically.

Not extending the Federal debt ceiling does not have to result in a default on our National Debt. Tax revenues still come into the Treasury at an impressive rate. We could still pay for our debt, Social Security, Medicare and our defense.

However, there would be perilously little money to pay for anything else. It is time for our President to show some leadership and Congress to work on a compromise so that we not run up to the edge of the cliff and stare into the abyss. On the wall in my office is an 1864 Confederate States of America Treasury Bond. It was to pay six percent interest for 30 years. It has one coupon that has been clipped.

It was guaranteed by the Full Faith and Credit of the Confederacy.

Enough said. ❖

Dunn is chairman of the Howard County Republican

Chairman Berry, from page 1

of power that jolted Berry back into the political process. "This is the time to get involved," Berry remembered, working phone banks and walking neighborhoods for Helmke, who would defeat Moses in 1987.

What followed after 1987 was involvement in the Young Republicans, becoming a precinct committeeman in 1988, then a ward chairman, president of the YRs, and then in 1990, a vacancy at the Allen County treasurer's office with the death of Pat Stiegerwald. This came shortly after a Hudson Institute study which pointed to a lack of young leaders in the state's second largest city.

When the treasurer opening occurred, 28-year-old Berry was told by friends, "You need to run" and he did,

winning the caucus and leading him to nearly a quarter century of public service.

All of this gave Berry a long resume of grass-roots politicking at the local level. It led him to the state ticket in 1998, when party leaders and fellow county treasurers urged him to run even though one-term Treasurer

Joyce Brinkman had yet to decide on reelection. He joined the ticket of Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy, Auditor Connie Nass and Brian Bishop as clerk of the court that commenced what would be four statewide campaigns and 14 years of service at the Statehouse.

Berry was ideally situated to solve a political problem in the early days of Gov. Mike Pence's administration. Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb had decided to join U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, and waiting in the wings for the 2014 ticket was Richard Mourdock, pondering a run for state auditor just months after his disastrous U.S. Senate loss that nearly





scuttled Pence's own campaign. Appointing Berry as state chair allowed Pence to fill the auditor position with Dwayne Sawyer as well as take control of next year's ticket.

Berry didn't go into the details of this scenario, but when the 90-minute conversation turned to Tea Party and the concept of "big tent" diversity in a party that has veered to the right while some sought ideological purity, the notion of "temperament" of candidates was raised.

"You're right!" Berry said of the 2012 elections that saw Mourdock implode and Supt. Tony Bennett fall in an upset to Democrat Glenda Ritz. "It was the messenger, not the message."

He pointed to Washington Post columnist George Will's maiden appearance on Fox News Sunday earlier this week, where the stalwart conservative observed, "Republicans now have what liberals are supposed to admire, which is diversity of thought."

"I think that's what makes us strong," said Berry. "I can take it back to Ronald Reagan's philosophy that if you agree with me 80% of the time, you're my friend." He was buoyed when Casey Cox was elected in caucus to fill the Indiana House term of the late State Rep. Phyllis Pond. The 31-year-old Cox described himself as a "Reagan baby."

Berry acknowledged that it was the search for ideological purity that propelled Mourdock's primary upset of Sen. Dick Lugar, and the loss of probable Republican Senate seats in Maine, Delaware, Colorado, Nevada and Missouri.

"We are building that one party," Berry said. "We have to harness that common energy for a common purpose."

He is an ardent proponent of the Daniels/Holcomb era "Party of Purpose" that has labeled the Indiana Republican Party. But he adds, "We have to recognize we lost a Senate seat and the superintendent race. We have to recognize where we failed there and correct it before 2014 and 2016."

And that presents him with his biggest challenge, which is to update the technology and communication methods.

Berry read Republican National Chairman Reince Priebus's Growth and Opportunity Report which the Washington Post described as a "blistering assessment" of the party's 2012 failures. Issued in March, Priebus explained, "There's no one reason we lost. Our message was weak; our ground game was insufficient; we weren't inclusive; we were behind in both data and digital; and our primary and debate process needed improvement. So, there's no one solution. There's a long list of them."

Among the report's 219 prescriptions: A \$10 million marketing campaign, aimed in particular at women, minorities and gays; a shorter, more controlled primary season and earlier national convention; and creation of an open data platform and

Past Indiana Republican Chairs

George W. Friendly	1876
John C. New	1884
Nelson Huston	1888
John K. Gowdy	1896
George F. McCullough	1896
Charles S. Hernley	1898
James P. Goodrich	1902
Fred A. Sims	1908
Edwin M. Lee	1910
Fred A. Sims	1912
Will H. Hays	1914
Edmund M. Wasmuth	1918
Lawrence E. Lyons	1922
Clyde A. Walb	1923
Edwin F. Kitselman	1928
Eliza O. Rogers	1928
Ivan C. Morgan	1932
Don B. Irwin	1933
John C. Morgan	1936
John C. Taylor	1937
Arch N. Bobbitt	1937
Ralph F. Gates	1941
John Lauer	1944
William E. Jenner	1945
H. Clark Springer	1946
Cale Holder	1951
Noland C. Wright	1953
Paul Cyr	1954
Alvin A. Cast	1954
Robert W. Mathews	1957
Edwin Beaman	1959
Thomas A. Gallmeyer	1961
H. Dale Brown	1962
Robert N. Stewart	1963
Charles O. Hendricks	1965
Buena Chaney	1967
John K. Snyder	1970
James T. Neal	1972
Thomas S. Milligan	1973
Bruce B. Melchert	1977
Gordon K. Durnil	1981
Virgil D. Scheidt	1989
Keith Luse	1990
Rexford C. Early	1991
Allan B. Hubbard	1993
Michael D. McDaniel	1995
Jim Kittle Jr.	2001
J. Murray Clark	2006
Eric Holcomb	2011
Tim Berry	2013





analytics institute to provide research for Republican candidates.

Asked if he was surprised that President Obama defeated 2012 nominee Mitt Romney, Berry shook his head. He had watched a series of polls in the homestretch showing an Obama lead. Many other Republicans were cloistered into a Fox News wonderworld. "We talk among ourselves very well. We have to talk to voters who have yet to define themselves as Republican," Berry observed. "There were Republicans who were shocked on Election Day because they stayed in their own little circle, who had not talked to a single voter who voted for Obama. We have to deliver a message to those who have not voted with us."

Berry recognizes that while the base is important, it is the independent voter who will sway an election. "We've not reached the independent voter," he said. "We reach our voters, but not the independents. At the same time, we need to better understand what drives voters to turn out. A lot of voters stayed home. We weren't speaking directly to them. The Obama campaign figured out how to talk to voters and target them."

In tandem with the Republican National Committee, there are technology and digital communication upgrades under way. Berry said that upgrades on the technology front and on future ground games are dual efforts by both the RNC and state parties like Indiana's. The data will be shared.

His communications director, Pete Seat, chipped in, noting that "we have to go to the audience." A decade ago, they might have been concentrated on local network affiliates such as WISH-TV. "Now they're on ESPN or Oxygen," Berry added, "We've got to respond to this. They might be watching TV, but at the same time looking at their computer."

There is recognition that, as former President Bill Clinton observed last month, the next campaign will not be conducted like the last one. There will still be TV advertising on the local network affiliates and cable, along with direct mail, but there has also been the emergence of social media, which was exploited by the Ritz campaign in 2012 via Facebook and Twitter. Since then, Instagram has continued to emerge and by 2016 there could be a new social media platform dominating, but unknown today, perhaps not even yet invented.

While the campaign spending pie will still include TV, direct mail, social media, and even newspapers, the percentages of emphasis within that pie will shift. In the \$51 million U.S. Senate race of 2012, for instance, the bulk of the outside Super PAC money was spent on Fox News instead of local network affiliates. The Lugar campaign made tens of thousands of calls from its huge phone bank, but lost to Mourdock 61-39%.

Seat noted the "quantity versus the quality" of

contact and emphasized that moving forward, "It has to be a quality contact." He noted that in the near future, Nielsen will be measuring viewership beyond television and into computers.

Chairman Berry entered the political process in an era of newspaper advertising, T-shirts, balloons and emery boards. He will now preside over a statewide process that begs for digital prowess aimed at a diversified target, its attention splayed between dozens of measurable platforms. He knows the other side is doing the same thing, and as the Obama campaign proved in 2008 and 2012, did it better and faster. There is, literally, a subterranean race for the roots.

While he has most of the statewide offices ensconced on his side, he also has 35 new county chairs. Berry has tightened the party controls of various data streams, and bluntly observes, "We have to sharpen our tools." ❖

What the polls are telling us

INDIANAPOLIS - The Associated Press-GfK survey, out Wednesday, affirms expectations by many in Washington — Republicans among them — that the GOP may end up taking the biggest hit in public opinion from the fiscal paralysis, just as that party did when much of the government closed 17 years ago. Overall, 62% mainly blamed Republicans for the shutdown. About half said Obama or the Democrats in Congress bear much responsibility.

Congress is scraping rock bottom, with a ghastly approval rating of 5%. ❖

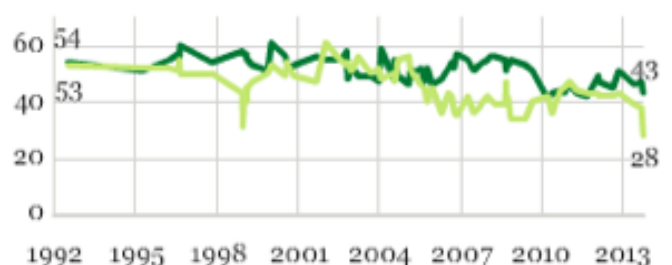
Republican Party Favorability Sinks to Record Low

October 9, 2013

GALLUP®

Americans' % Favorable Ratings for Major U.S. Parties

■ Democratic Party ■ Republican Party





Indiana GOP Members face the default question

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS –The Obamacare health exchanges got off to a disastrous start this week, plagued by systemic computer glitches. But the focus of the nation was fixated on a congressionally induced government shutdown and a potential default that could dwarf the Lehman Brothers collapse of 2008.

By Wednesday, the magnitude of this epic congressional feint was an Associated Press/gfk Poll that showed approval for the body at 5%, putting Congress in the company of drug dealers and Kim Jung Un. The poll revealed that 62% blamed Republicans, with about 40% of them identifying with the Tea Party. President Obama’s approval was staggered at 37%, with 52% disapproving, creating a portrait of an American capital city in the throes of gridlock.

Emerging from this cesspool were two moderates, former Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh and Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, who echoed Mitch Daniels in a call for a “cease fire.” The two former centrist presidential candidates affiliated with bipartisan group No Labels founded by former Bayh fundraiser Nancy Jacobson, has gathered 85 Members of Congress, including Rep. Todd Young, in an effort to end gridlock.

In tandem with the No Labels entry into this crisis, focus began turning to the Indiana congressional Republicans, none of whom had signed on to a “clean” continuing resolution that would have reopened the government. Capitol Hill sources tell HPI that among the eight Hoosier Republicans, a handful was actually entertaining a federal default.

When HPI sought positions from the Republican delegation, Young came out emphatically against a default, while Reps. Marlin Stutzman, Susan Brooks, Larry Bucshon and Luke Messer took positions theoretically against a default, but couched the situation by urging President Obama and congressional Democrats to come to the table to negotiate, something the President said he wouldn’t do until the government reopened.

Missing in response was Rep. Todd Rokita. Young, the Bloomington Republican who sits on

the House Ways & Means Committee, has been speaking out against a federal default since 2011 and indicated he opposes anything that would prevent raising the debt ceiling, which is set to expire Oct. 17. But the closer that day comes, the more risk there is to a credit downgrade. In 2011, that downgrade actually came before the debt limit deadline.

“He’s always taken the prospect of default as a serious one to be avoided,” said spokesman Trevor Foughty. “Regardless of what one thinks the immediate economic impact might be, default will almost surely bring an interest rate response. Not only will that affect any American with a variable rate loan – a 1% hike on an average-sized mortgage for a southern Indiana family could result in



U.S. Sen. Dan Coats and U.S. Rep. Todd Young talk in the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday as citizens gather and watch. (Photo courtesy of Rep. Young)

\$100-\$200 per month in extra interest payments – but it will also cause larger interest payments on our national debt. In effect, we would ironically be causing our national debt to grow at a faster rate. That’s why it’s imperative for the President to stop playing games and join House Republicans at the negotiating table.”

Addressing the House on May 9, Young pushed the Full Faith & Credit Act in prose that would surely please the No Labels coalition. Young insisted the proposed act, “Would make default impossible.” He acknowledged that this is the third time since he joined the House in January



2011 he has faced a debt ceiling showdown.

"We have an opportunity to work together and finally tackle long-term issues such as tax reform," Young said in May. "Let's take default off the table and work on real issues."

Speaker John Boehner has shifted on the issue publicly; at one point aides said he would not permit a default, then later chastising Obama for not negotiating. "What the President said today was if there's unconditional surrender by Republicans, he'll sit down and talk," Boehner said after Obama's Tuesday press concurrence. But Capitol Hill sources have told HPI, "Every time Boehner speaks to the conference, he says we're not going into default." This morning, the Associated Press reported at HPI's deadline that Boehner would seek a short-term debt ceiling increase.

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, facing a potential Tea Party challenge in 2014, "believes the president and Congress must negotiate a serious solution to address our nation's debt crisis, establishing a plan to reduce spending and strengthen economic outlook," said spokesperson Elizabeth Guyton. "This requires the President and Senate Democrats to join the House in an open conversation about how to pay our bills and avoid default. Failure to do so will be harmful to our families, businesses, and economy."

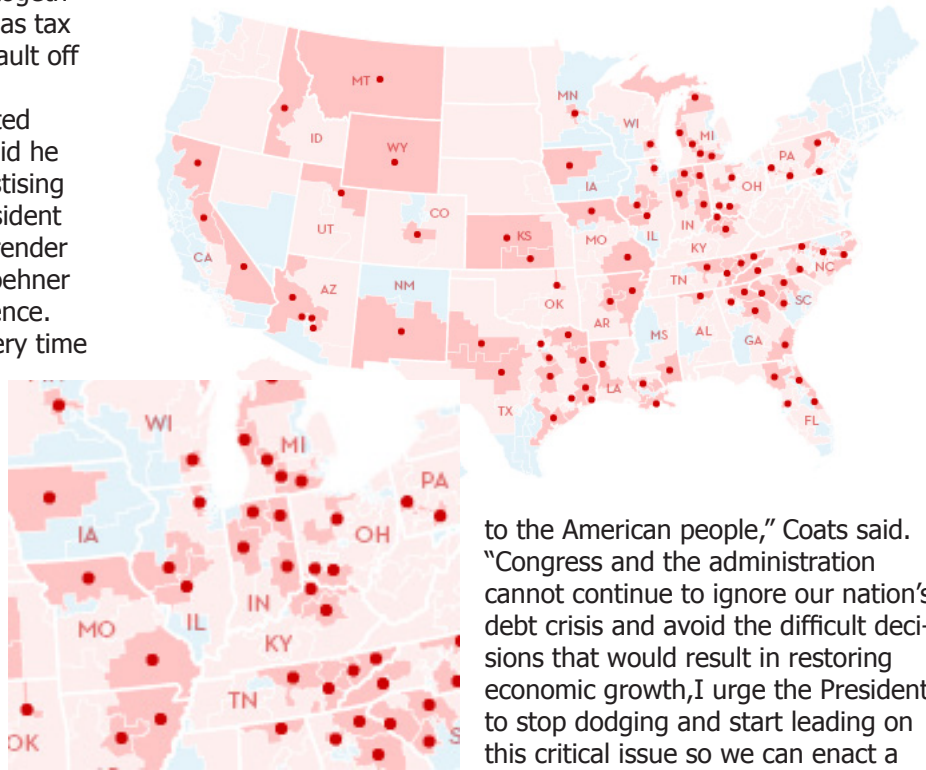
Missing from the statement was any kind of demarcation on an actual default.

Rep. Luke Messer, R-Shelbyville and president of the freshman class, acknowledged that a default "would be a big deal," in the words of spokeswoman Liz Hill. "That is why both parties should come together and negotiate a solution that avoids it."

Hill added, "No one wants to see the nation go into default. But all major spending reduction legislation of the past 30 years was passed in conjunction with the debt ceiling. President Reagan achieved a debt reduction package in conjunction with a debt ceiling increase in 1985 when he signed the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction bill. Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton achieved similar agreements with both Democratic and Republican congresses. President Obama himself agreed to some spending controls in return for raising the debt limit just a few years ago. Now, the President refuses to negotiate and is adamant that his spending continue."

Sen. Dan Coats was critical of President Obama's willingness to come to the table. "Refusing to negotiate on a plan to address our nation's \$17 trillion debt would be a complete failure of this administration and a disservice

The House Republican 'Suicide Caucus'



to the American people," Coats said. "Congress and the administration cannot continue to ignore our nation's debt crisis and avoid the difficult decisions that would result in restoring economic growth, I urge the President to stop dodging and start leading on this critical issue so we can enact a plan to pay our past bills and bring down our massive debt."

The New Yorker Magazine identified four Indiana Republicans –Stutzman, Walorski, Rokita and Messer – as part of the "suicide caucus" that had aligned with Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., who said in a letter to Speaker John Boehner, "Since most of the citizens we represent believe that Obamacare should never go into effect. we urge you to affirmatively defund the implementation and enforcement of Obamacare in any relevant appropriations bill brought to the House floor in the 113th Congress, including any continuing appropriations bill."

The letter included a stirring reference: "James Madison wrote in Federalist No. 58 that the 'power over the purse may, in fact, be regarded as the most complete and effectual weapon ... for obtaining a redress of every grievance...' "We look forward to collaborating to defund one of the largest grievances in our time and to restore patient-centered healthcare in America."

Wrote Ryan Lizza, the author of the New Yorker article: "The ability of 80 members of the House of Representatives to push the Republican Party into a strategic course that is condemned by the party's top strategists is a historical oddity. It's especially strange when you consider some of the numbers behind the suicide caucus. These 80 members represent just 18 per cent of the House and just a third of the 233 House Republicans. They were elected



with fourteen and a half million of the hundred and eighteen million votes cast in House elections last November, or 12 per cent of the total. In all, they represent 58 million constituents. That may sound like a lot, but it's just 18 per cent of the population. The members of the suicide caucus live in a different America from the one that most political commentators describe when talking about how the country is transforming. The average suicide-caucus district is 75% white, while the average House district is 63% white. Latinos make up an average of 9% of suicide-district residents, while the over-all average is 17%. The members themselves represent this lack of diversity. Seventy-six of the members who signed the Meadows letter are male. Seventy-nine of them are white."

Stutzman, who gained notoriety last week when he told the Washington Examiner that his wing of the party didn't want to be "disrespected" but had no clue to an end game, said in a statement to Howey Politics Indiana on Tuesday, "Because Washington's spending addiction has put this country \$17 trillion in debt, any debt ceiling conversations must include a serious, long-term strategy to reduce our national debt. Given the harm a default would have on families, businesses, and financial markets, Washington must avoid default and tackle the issue of deficit spending."

Stutzman, who sits on the House Financial Services Committee, said in a House floor speech that same day, "Back home Hoosiers know that we only solve problems by sitting down and talking. Unfortunately, President Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid refuse to join Republicans in the constructive, respectful dialogue that Washington desperately needs. The American people don't expect Republicans and Democrats to agree on everything but they do expect us to talk. It's time for Senate Democrats to put aside their obstructionism and come to the table."

His comments came as President Obama reiterated his refusal to negotiate until the government reopens.

Another Republican, Rep. Larry Bucshon, would also not support a default. "Dr. Bucshon does not support the prospect of default," said spokesman Nick McGee. "He believes that the President and Harry Reid's refusal to negotiate on the debt ceiling is an untenable and irresponsible position. The President needs to come to the table, like every president has during divided government, and have a conversation about how to move forward to address out of control spending and the true drivers of our national debt. Beyond that, we won't comment on any hypothetical situations."

A spokesman for Rep. Susan Brooks says she is against a default. "She recognizes how bad it would be

for the economy and it's something she is working hard to avoid," said spokesman Alex Damron. "Along with House Republican Conference meetings, she also meets with a group of freshmen Republican and Democrats on a regular basis to discuss strategies to break the current impasse. She strongly supports House leadership's urgent call for a bipartisan and bicameral working group aiming to reopen the government and avoid default. It's time for the President and Senate Democrats to come to the negotiating table willing to talk about our debt. House Republicans are not handing over ultimatums on this issue, but rather they're asking for a discussion on policy opportunities that have already earned bipartisan support."

On Tuesday, Obama reiterated he would not "negotiate" under the threat of a default, which he described as "insane" and "irresponsible."

"My message to the world is the United States has always paid its bills and it will do so again," Obama said. "But I think they're not just looking at what I say, but also what Congress does. We're not going to calm creditors until they see that Speaker Boehner calls up a bill that ends the government shutdown

and raises the debt ceiling.

"Now, as soon as Congress votes to reopen the government, it's also got to vote to meet our country's commitments, pay our bills, raise the debt ceiling, because as reckless as a government shutdown is, the economic shutdown caused by America defaulting would be dramatically worse. And I want to talk about this for a minute because even though people can see and feel the effects of a government shutdown – they're already experiencing it right now – there are still some people out there who don't believe that default is a real thing. And we've been hearing that from some Republicans in Congress: that default would not be a big deal. So let me explain this. If Congress refuses to raise what's called the debt ceiling, America would not be able to meet all of our financial obligations for the first time in 225 years.

"And because it's called raising the debt ceiling, I think a lot of Americans think it's raising our debt. It is not raising our debt. This does not add a dime to our debt. It simply says you pay for what Congress has already authorized America to purchase, whether that's the greatest military in the world or veterans' benefits or Social Security. Whatever it is that Congress has already authorized, what this does is make sure that we can pay those bills."

Obama did seem to open the door for short-term deals. "We're willing to pass at least a short-term budget that opens up the government at current funding levels," he said. ❖





Centrist Bayh reemerges amid crisis with No Labels

By **MATTHEW BUTLER**

INDIANAPOLIS - Evan Bayh, former Indiana Governor and Senator, now Washington insider, has joined former Utah Governor and Republican presidential candidate Jon Huntsman in calling for a "ceasefire" on Capitol Hill.

Launched late last month, the two, as Co-Chairs of the group No Labels, are pushing an initiative called the 'Jobs First Plan.' The truce would "put partisan budget battles on hold until the economy is growing more robustly." Tax rates and spending would be locked into place until the unemployment rate comes down to 6.5%. (The Bureau of Labor Statistics said it was 7.3% for August; Indiana's was 8.1% for September.) "What we're proposing would put ideological differences and partisan posturing on hold until folks can get back to work growing businesses and creating jobs," Bayh said. "Both parties today have strong ideological differences, and that's fine. But let's not tank the American economy over them."

This week, amidst the shutdown, Bayh and Huntsman are appearing together in a television advertisement touting the plan and asking viewers to sign their petition. C-SPAN will cover a press conference by the group scheduled for today.

Now publicly backing sweeping compromises, Bayh is becoming increasingly more visible since he left office. He headlined with Fred Thompson a debate at the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia earlier this week titled "Is American Politics Broken?" Ironically, due to the shutdown the event was forced from a shuttered Congress Hall to a hotel.

On Tuesday, he also joined the Campaign to Fix the Debt's letter to Congress and the President urging bipartisan deficit-reduction strategies as soon as possible. Other notable Democrats joining Bayh were former Senators Joe Lieberman, Gary Hart, and Sam Nunn. Republicans Alan Simpson, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Mel Martinez, Pete Domenici, and John Sununu were also signatories. Many observers on the left have accused the above efforts as fronts for pushing corporate-backed austerity measures and deregulation under the guise of a crisis-ending bargain.

The suggestion that Bayh's ties to business are deep is nothing new. Amongst some Washington observers, Bayh is seen as the epitome of the lawmaker-turned-lobbyist. Bayh refused to run for a third Senate term in 2010, cit-

ing "too much partisanship and not enough progress - too much narrow ideology and not enough practical problem-solving" in national politics. He said he looked forward to growing a job-creating business or working for a non-profit. In 2011, however, he became a Washington adviser for the private equity group Apollo Global Management, joined the staff of McGuireWoods, a firm known for lobbying, and toured the country, alongside former George W. Bush Chief-of-Staff Andrew Card, as a spokesman for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. As The Washington Post's Ezra Klein commented at the time, Bayh was walking "through the revolving door" of Washington.

Seasoned national political reporter Mark Leibovich's 2013 book "This Town" singled out Bayh as one of the "egregious examples." Leibovich told C-SPAN's Brian Lamb in August, "He was very ostentatious on the way out. He wrote an Op-Ed for the New York Times about just awful had it become, how he wanted to make a difference, how he was just burned out on all of it and he talked about partisanship and everything. And, you know, ... he immediately sort of joined the Chamber of Commerce. He got a pundits gig on Fox. He joined all these boards." Leibovich's book devoted three unflattering pages to the Bayh family, according to the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. Susan Bayh's moonlighting on multiple corporate boards, particularly for companies with a stake in health care reform while Evan was

in the Senate, drew especial critical attention.

Now, Bayh's debt-fixing efforts are not surprising to some critical D.C. observers. "Oh, Christ," wrote The Huffington Post's Jason Linkins in late September, "of course Evan Bayh is part of No Labels now ... because obviously the real victim here is Big Business." In an October 3rd piece titled "The Sellouts," Charles S. Pierce, the political blogger for Esquire, suggested the current acrimony and gridlock in Washington offers a political opportunity for legislators-turned-operators: "The poor banished children of Evan Bayh are still lurking around the party clubhouse, polishing their 'centrist' credentials and waiting for a chance to demonstrate their bipartisanship."

What might matter most to Bayh, however, is how Hoosiers perceive his recent efforts at bipartisan compromise. Writing in September for HPI, Rich James said Bayh was considered the "hottest topic" at the September Indiana Democratic Editorial Association's meeting in French Lick. With still a \$10 million campaign war chest, there was speculation he might run again for Governor. Democrats are probably already contemplating a Bayh-Pence battle in 2016. ❖





A melon-splitting week for Members

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. - You'd have to go back a generation to find a week where more melon-splitting ridicule and scorn was heaped on a Member of the Indiana Congressional delegation than this past week when U.S. Reps. Marlin Stutzman and Todd Rokita churned out headlines and earned spoofs on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

That takes you back to the days of House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Dan Burton, who duly reported firing shots at a "head-like object" in his Washington backyard in an attempt to debunk the notion of Vince Foster's suicide. Speculation centered on a water melon or pumpkin as the target.

The hysteria surrounding the troubled launching of the Affordable Care Act and a futile effort to defund it that led to the current government shutdown lurched into a bizarre crescendo late in the week when Stutzman told the Washington Examiner, "We're not going to be disrespected. We have to get something out of this. And I don't know what that even is."

It presented President Obama and Democrats with the kind of bulletin board material that would make Woody Hays or Mike Ditka cringe and rage. "Just yesterday one House Republican said -- I didn't make this up - 'We're not going to be disrespected. We have to get something out of this, and I don't know what that even is,'" Obama told a crowd in Rockville, Md. "That was a quote! If you're being disrespected, it's because of that attitude that you've got that you deserve to get something for doing your job! Everybody here just does their job, right? If you're working here and in the middle of the day, you just stopped and said, 'You know what? I want to get something, but I don't know exactly what I'm going get, but -- I'm just going to stop working until I get something. I'm going to shut down the whole plant until I get something.' You'd get fired!"

On Saturday, the Washington Post's Chris Cillizza had given Stutzman the dubious award of having the "Worst Week in Washington."

The week began with U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon calling the ACA a "bill" as Congress waddled into the shutdown when it is actually a law passed by both chambers in March



2010, signed by President Obama and passing constitutional muster by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Rokita, meanwhile, chimed in, declaring Obamacare as "one of the most insidious laws ever created by man," sparred with a CNN anchor while calling her "beautiful," and defended his acceptance of his Congressional paycheck at the very time Capitol Police, under assault from a female motorist who would be gunned down in her careening car, were showing up for work without compensation.

"The problem I have withholding my pay or anything like that, that sends the message that we're not doing our job or and that I don't deserve my pay. I'm doing my job, I'm doing exactly what Hoosiers want me to do. That is fight against out of control growth and spending of the federal government," said Rokita.

But it was "the most insidious law ever" comment that earned him ridicule from Stewart on the Daily Show. "(He's) putting Obamacare up with the Nuremberg laws, the Spanish Inquisition and prima nocta -- the medieval law where on your wedding night the king gets to sleep with your wife," Stewart said.

Rokita spokesman Zach Zagar said in response that his boss "truly believes" Obamacare is one of the worst laws ever.

By week's end, protesters were picketing outside of Rokita's Lafayette office and Indiana Democratic Chairman John Zody finally emerged in the midst of the shutdown chaos promising to

recruit general election challengers for the two sophomore Republicans.

Rokita won reelection by 27.8 points over Lafayette Democrat Tara Nelson in 2012 and Stutzman mauled Democrat Kevin Boyd by almost 100,000 votes. The Cook Political Report's Partisan Voting Index lists Rokita's 4th CD as a R+11 or the 111th most Republican district in the nation, and Stutzman's 3rd at R+13, or 88th on the list and the most GOP-leaning district in Indiana.

"The way the districts are drawn and how endless amounts of money can be poured into these races, you always have that thought ... about how winnable that district can be -- even if you have the perfect candidate," Tippencanoe County Democratic Chair Heather Maddox told the Lafayette Journal & Courier columnist Dave Bangert. "That said, times are different, with the shutdown and all. ... With the right person, you never know."

Indiana Congressional Republicans voted unanimously against Obamacare in March 2010, and in the





Spring of 2011, then Rep. Mike Pence threatened a government shutdown over his opposition to the federal funding of Planned Parenthood. But Gov. Pence had changed his tune. "I never said the government shutdown was worthwhile," Pence told WTHR-TV on Thursday, refuting an Associated Press report out of South Bend. "I'm disappointed with the impasse that's been reached in Washington DC and like every Hoosier, I'm disappointed in the lack of leadership."

If there was one silver lining for Hoosier Republicans, it is that Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock is not the state's freshman U.S. Senator. Mourdock wrote on his Facebook page, "Ted Cruz is a profile in courage, not because he started a fight he knew he would win, but

because he had the guts to push back knowing the odds and consequences. Cruz honored his promise to those who elected him and, it seems, he exposed the bullies in the chamber for who they are. In those two aspects he has succeeded admirably."

This came just hours before Cruz's Senate Republican colleagues castigated him in a private caucus for his faux filibuster tactics that fueled a crisis with no end in sight.

The GOP delegation's near-hysteria over Obamacare is, in part, fueled not only by the unpopularity of the law here in Indiana and nationally, but by the medical device tax that underwrites a portion of the law. But that was a secondary story this past week. ❖

Brown County works sensibly for its future

By **MORTON MARCUS**

NASHVILLE, Ind. - There are so many ways to look at Brown County. You can marvel at the golden colors as the leaves turn this time of the year. You can admire the high median household income and high rates of educational attainment enjoyed by the citizens of Brown County. Or, you can zero in on the low wages paid workers in the county.



For this place (Nashville and its surrounding communities) is not like other lightly populated counties in Indiana. With just 15,000 residents (81st in the state), Brown County has a population density of just 48 persons per square mile, compared with 182 statewide. This is

because much of the county's 312 square miles are state or federal lands not open to development.

The dominant private sector of Brown's economy is accommodations and food services, primarily geared to tourist and convention business. But there are also artists and craftsmen who get by with little cash income in exchange for a chosen lifestyle. These factors lead to an average annual wage per job below \$24,000, the lowest in the state.

Yet Brown County ranks 14th in Indiana for residents with education of a bachelor's degree or more, and 21st in percent of adults with at least a high school diploma. These achievements give the county a median household income that is 12th in Indiana and 15 percent above

the state average. Poverty is less of a problem in Brown County (13 percent) than in the state (15.8 percent).

Commuting explains the issue. More than one-third of Brown residents who hold jobs commute to neighboring Bartholomew, Marion, Johnson and Monroe counties. Highly skilled commuting workers from Brown County bring back good incomes when they return home. Those who remain to work in the county have low incomes either because of limited opportunities or lifestyle choices. (One of those lifestyles is retirement which has drawn a goodly number of non-poor households to Brown.)

Few would suggest that economic development should change the balance of diverse lifestyles in the county. However, it is clear young people and adults require further education to earn better wages in the county or participate in the economic growth prevalent in surrounding counties.

One such effort investing in the county's future is the Career Resource Center (CRC). Here people who have stopped climbing the education ladder find a new set of steps to diploma, certificate and degree achievement. Otherwise, these are potentially the hardcore working poor of the future.

Counseling is a central part of the program to enable students to see beyond the constraints and the blandishments of the community as it is today. The 10-year record of the CRC is impressive with hundreds of students moving from introductory classes in Nashville to completion of programs in Columbus and Bloomington.

Participants are given an opportunity through CRC to resume climbing that education ladder within the context of their Brown County upbringing. They learn that coming from some place as different as Brown County does not mean being excluded from the opportunities Indiana and America offer. ❖

Marcus is an independent economist.



Cox elected to replace Pond; Sen. Paul to retire

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FORT WAYNE – Republican Fort Wayne attorney Casey Cox was elected Tuesday night to serve the rest of the late State Rep. Phyllis Pond’s term. Cox, an attorney with Beers Mallery Backs & Salin, won the caucus with 37 of the 59 votes on the first ballot. Two other candidates received votes – Dave Heine had 20 and Ken Richardson received two. The other candidates were Denny Worman,



Mike Cameron, Ken Knoblauch and John Nichter.

Cox, who described himself in introductory remarks as one of the “army of Reagan babies” who believe in conservative principles set forth by former President Ronald Reagan, said he is concerned

about an increasing skills gap between job applicants and positions in the workforce that are available and wants better educational opportunities for students. He also acknowledged that winning the caucus only gives him a little breathing room and that he will meet quickly with his support infrastructure to ensure that his time in the statehouse is productive. “I think it’s important for the district to make sure you have someone who can get in there...who knows the legislative process,” Cox told the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel.

Sen. Paul won’t seek reelection

State Sen. Allen Paul (R-Richmond) announced Wednesday he will not seek re-election to Senate District 27 in 2014. “After serving 27 years in the State Senate, it’s time to focus my time on new endeavors and my family,” Paul said. “It’s been a privilege to serve with some of the hardest-working people I’ve ever met. I can’t put into words how much I appreciate the support of my constituents, friends, family and the Senate itself.”

He is the second veteran Republican to announce his retirement in the last month. State Sen. Tom Wyss, R-Fort Wayne, will also retire. State Sen. Lindel Hume, D-Princeton, announced his retirement last year.

Paul, a decorated Vietnam War combat veteran of the 1st Air Cavalry Division and a retired officer of the Indiana Guard Reserve, was elected to the Indiana Senate in 1986. He’s held several leadership positions for the Senate Majority Caucus, including majority assistant caucus chair and majority whip. He was the first legislator from Eastern

Indiana to serve in a leadership position within the caucus, a spot which he held for more than 20 years.

Brainard, Winnecke endorse Seybold

Carmel Mayor James Brainard, Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke and Diana Cordray, Carmel Clerk-Treasurer and outgoing President of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, have announced their support of the Wayne Seybold for Treasurer campaign. They join 55 other national, state and local community leaders in officially supporting the Seybold candidacy for 2014. “As Carmel’s first five-term mayor, Jim Brainard has brought an incredible vision to that city, raising its profile in Indiana and across the nation through arts and economic development initiatives,” said Seybold. “Mayor Winnecke, in his first term, is already meeting the challenges of running Indiana’s third largest city with foresight, innovation and a true commitment to make Evansville a stronger, more vibrant community.”

Bucshon gets a primary opponent

Andrew McNeil tells the Evansville Courier & Press he’ll seek to deny Bucshon the GOP nomination in next May’s primary for a third term representing the 8th congressional district. The 39-year-old McNeil is from the Owen County community of Freedom. He is a territory manager for the Ronnoco coffee company and operates a family farm with organic gardens and sheep. His campaign website highlights opposition to the new federal health care law, abortion and increased federal debt. Bucshon defeated tea party favorite Kristi Risk in last year’s Republican primary with 58 percent of the vote..

Rothenberg moves Walorski

In 2012, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney won Indiana’s 2nd District with 56 percent as his party’s nominee for president. Republican Jackie Walorski won the 2nd District House race with 49 percent (Rothenberg Political Report). That’s about all you need to know about why Democrats are targeting the northern Indiana race in 2014.

Last November, Walorski’s 3,920-vote victory over Democrat Brendan Mullen was one of the surprises on Election Night. Not because she wasn’t supposed to win, but because she nearly lost. After considering another bid, Mullen decided not to run again. So Democrats are searching for a quality challenger to keep this race in play. But a midterm election without another race (president, governor, senate) at the top of the ballot might not be the best time to do it. Any Democrat will start as the underdog. Indiana’s 2nd District is now rated Republican Favored (from Lean Republican) by Rothenberg Political Report/Roll Call.

HPI Horse Race: Walorski doesn’t even have a Democratic opponent, so we concur. ❖



The serious crash of our government

By **CHRIS SPANGLE**

INDIANAPOLIS - Over the last week, terrible and awesome events have grabbed our headlines.

The first was a horrifying accident by Indycar Champ Dario Franchitti. In a hasty, split-second decision, Franchitti made a pass in the Houston Grand Prix, and the move launched his car in to the catch fence, and sprayed the crowd with debris. Fortunately, the spectators and the three-time Indy 500 champ will miraculously survive the crash. Dario's crash looked brutal because of the thousands of pieces flying away from the driver, carrying with them the force meant for his body.



Franchitti's accident led me to wondering if our government isn't headed for a serious crash itself. Our hulking leviathan has continuously grown centralized, and decision-making has become as flexible as Ray Harroun's Marmon Wasp. The government is still shut down, and we are hurtling toward default with dysfunction at the top. Physics certainly is not the cause, but we have violated the principles as sound as gravity itself.

The larger man-made institutions grow, the less functional they become. The less functional a government becomes, the more harmful it is to those inside. It is my fear that our government has grown so large that it is no longer able to function.

One of the paver stones in our long road to national dysfunction is our collective shift from a nation that sees itself as a collection of states versus a nationalist perspective. It is hard to pinpoint when we stopped seeing our nation as a compact of 50 labs of democracy, and began seeing ourselves as a single nation. When did the United States just become America?

A strong central power was not something designed by our Founders. The states created the federal government, and limited it with a constitution. In it, they outlined 17 specific functions the federal government may exercise. These powers include regulating commerce with foreign nations, coining money, and running a post office. And then in the 9th and 10th amendment, they declared that anything not enumerated in that document is left to each state to decide.

Over time, the nationalist perspective rose, and

achieved dominance with Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln is often put at the top of the Presidential rankings. He is regarded as a hero, emancipator, a man of wisdom, and the man who kept the Union together.

For that last reason that I find him a complicated hero. In an effort to keep the Union together, he greatly grew the power of the Federal government. He suspended habeas corpus, he issued executive orders that imprisoned journalists and newspaper editors, closed over 300 newspapers, and allocated military spending without the consent of the Congress. These are serious breaches of civil liberties and human rights.

I consistently struggle with the historical question: Every other nation ended slavery peacefully in that century. Why were we the ones that fought a civil war where 625,000 Americans died? The idea of secession was meant to give civilized people a peaceful exit from a political institution that no longer represented them.

Jefferson's idea of the founding was that our Constitution were merely a temporary convenience, and should it no longer be necessary, those ties could be dissolved for something more advantageous. Why not several confederations inhabiting America? That is a far cry from Lincoln's view that the Union should be preserved by even the worst means necessary.

So why does any of this matter today? Those currently arguing for a stronger central government need Lincoln as a pretext for their own plans. If our government needed to invade our private letters (and emails), it is to protect our nation. Even Lincoln did it. We need to detain prisoners of war indefinitely, and it is OK, because even our hero Lincoln did it. The idea is even reinforced each day across the nation as the pledge is said: "one Nation under God, indivisible."

I am not arguing for secession. In this day and age, no serious political thinker should. I am arguing that state and city governments ought to start thinking independently. Protect us from our dysfunctional federal government.

What can they do to survive without federal grants? What can local politicians do to empower their communities? And voters ought to choose politicians that put their local interests first.

Government power should rest as close to the individual voter as possible. Apathy sets in as individuals have lost their ability to directly influence those making decisions for them.

The modern political class needs to find ways to return power to the local level. If we apply the principles of IndyCar racing to our political history and present, we are all a little safer if things break into thousands of pieces as opposed to one hulking mass.

Now before you turn the page and dismiss your columnist as another wingnut, please let me say that I



have no one and everyone to blame. I am a libertarian, which means that my principles are as close to a stateless society as we can muster. I am also a Libertarian, so I root for no team in Washington (especially not the Redskins.) I am not going to blame what most libertarians and conservatives rail against an amorphous being named govern-

ment. I won't blame the media either. ❖
Spangle is the former executive director of the Libertarian Party of Indiana and currently works in marketing for the Englehart Group and the Advocates for Self-Government. He is also publisher of We Are Libertarians.

The city of Gary takes a bashing

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – It wasn't the best of weeks for the city of Gary. In fact, it ranked right up there with the worst of them. On a number of fronts, the city took a bashing. Even the one bright note came with a price.

The Gary/Chicago International Airport Authority named B.R. Lane the interim director of the airport. Lane is the chief of staff for Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, making \$99,000 annually. Two weeks ago, Lane was nominated to the airport director's job, but the board deadlocked.

Last week she was unanimously approved, even though she has no experience in the aviation industry. She will be paid about \$10,000 per month.

The Airport Authority paid a Florida firm \$30,000 in April to conduct a search for a new director. Thomas Collins, the Airport Authority chairman and Gov. Mike Pence's appointee, said he doesn't know the status of the search.

Also last week, the State Board of Accounts released an 88-page examination of the city's 2012 budget operations. It wasn't pretty.

The state cited Gary for very poor bookkeeping and widespread fiscal mismanagement. For example, the audit said the city didn't pay bills on time, ran up multi-million-dollar deficits through ill-advised budget transfers and failed to comply with federal grant reporting requirements.

The city opened 2012 with a \$4.9 million deficit and closed the year \$6.8 million in the hole. Celita Green, head of city finance, told the state Gary has taken action to fix the problems. Wouldn't you just know it, the city hired a national consulting firm to straighten things out.

But, the biggest condemnation came when a law enforcement team led by the state police issued a report on the Gary Police Department. The review of department procedures was the response from Pence when the city asked the governor for 50 state troopers for 60 days to

confront a rapid rise in homicides.

The report says there is a lack of respect for authority within the department, poor use of officers, political favoritism in making assignments and a lack of respect for those in command positions. The most directed criticism concerned the appointment of Sean Jones to head the city's SWAT unit.

Jones is a convicted felon for attempted drug trafficking with an inmate at the state prison. He worked as a corrections officer at the time. Jones was pardoned by then-Gov. Frank O'Bannon. In 2009-10, Freeman-Wilson represented Jones in an effort to expunge Jones' arrest record in LaPorte County. The effort failed.

Freeman-Wilson last week said the report criticizing the department was being reviewed.

One has to wonder where the problem lies. Are Chief Wade Ingram's hands tied or does Gary need a new police chief?

And on a sad note, Lake County Assessor Hank Adams died Sunday after battling cancer. Adams was the first Republican elected to countywide office in more than 50 years. ❖

Rich James has been writing about state and local government and politics for more than 30 years. He is a columnist for The Times of Northwest Indiana.

Chicago agency votes v. Illiana

CHICAGO - The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning voted against adding the proposed Illiana Expressway to its long-term transportation plan on Wednesday (Post-Tribune). CMAP officials on Wednesday voted against including the proposed expressway in its Go To 2040 long-range transportation plan. The project needs to get on the list for it to move forward. CMAP's transportation committee had voted to add the tollway to the plan, which outlines roughly \$360 billion in transportation spending between now and 2040. Only \$10 billion of that amount is reserved for new transportation projects, including the Interstate 294/Interstate 57 interchange and the Chicago Transit Authority's Red Line South extension. Analysts disagree on the need for the 47-mile tollway, which would be built through a private/public partnership. ❖





‘President Romney’ warns of the federal shutdown

BY JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – President Mitt Romney warns that the government shutdown threatens the nation’s fragile economic recovery. Romney blames Senate Democrats for insisting that a continuing resolution to fund the government must also prohibit restoring the lower Bush tax cut rate for the wealthiest Americans.

Since Romney’s narrow win over Barack Obama, finalized with the Supreme Court order to end Florida and Ohio recounts, whether to restore the lower tax rate for the wealthy has stalemated Congress. An increase in that rate came in the budget agreement as the Obama presidency was ending.



The Republican-controlled House has voted repeatedly for the more generous rate for high-income Americans, but the Senate, still with a Democratic majority, has refused more than 40 times to agree.

“You don’t threaten to blow the whole thing up just because you don’t get your way,” President Romney said, calling on the Senate to pass “a clean resolution” for government funding without blocking the

lower rate. He and House Republicans insist the lower rate will spur the still sluggish economy.

“We shouldn’t punish the job producers,” Romney said. “Lower rates will bring investment, create jobs and help the recovery of our middle class. I said that in the campaign. I won. And the House stayed Republican. The American people have spoken. And Senate Democrats ought to listen.”

But Senate Democratic liberals, insisting on specific language to block the tax cut in any government funding deal, said they’re the ones offering what the American people want.

“All polls show that Americans don’t like more tax cuts for millionaires,” said Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York. “And they don’t want this government shutdown.”

Schumer said Democrats were proposing a “win, win solution.” Said Schumer, “It keeps the government operating, as President Romney and all of us want, and it prohibits a tax giveaway to millionaires that most Americans don’t want.”

Some moderate Democratic senators were seeking

a compromise, perhaps offering to drop the tax cut prohibition and instead affix stronger requirements for background checks for gun purchases. House Republicans said, however, that any gun regulations would be dead on arrival.

Chances of any compromise dimmed after freshman Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas spoke for 21 hours on the Senate floor, denouncing Democrats and fellow Republicans and praising only green eggs and ham. The Cruz speech fueled partisan rancor. Cruz, however, gained Tea Party support and raised funds for an expected challenge to Romney in the 2016 Republican primaries.

Romney said he would negotiate with Democrats on budget matters only after passage of a no-strings-attached funding resolution to end the government shutdown. Polls show more support for President Romney than for Senate Democrats in the shutdown showdown.

The president contended that making concessions to the Senate Democrats to gain their support for funding the government would embolden them to demand even more when the more significant debt ceiling vote comes in less than two weeks.

Most Democrats, though willing during the Obama administration to raise the debt ceiling, signal opposition this time. And most Republicans, though denouncing debt ceiling increases back then, now say they will reluctantly agree to vote for the increase sought by President Romney.

“Raising the debt ceiling doesn’t appropriate a single cent for any future spending,” Romney said. “It is simply acknowledgment that this country will pay its bills, bills already approved in past spending decisions by Congress.”

“I deplore that those spending levels were so high,” Romney said. “But they were. And we cannot default on the nation’s obligations to pay its bills. The credit of America is at stake. And default would trigger an economic crisis not only here but around the world.”

Romney also has had to contend with recent release of a secretly recorded video of his remarks at a closed-door fundraiser back during the campaign. He seemed in those remarks to be suggesting that 47 percent of Americans were freeloaders. Romney conceded that his remarks were “not elegantly stated.” But the president said voters “would not have been misled by some secret video” if it had surfaced during the campaign. ❖

Colwell has covered politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.



Claire Zillman, CNN/Money: It sounded more like a Mean Girls taunt than political discourse: “We’re not going to be disrespected,” Marlin Stutzman, a Republican congressman from Indiana told the Washington Examiner last week. “We have to get something out of this. And I don’t know what that even is.” And from the other side of the aisle: “We are winning.... It doesn’t really matter to us” how long the shutdown lasts “because what matters is the end result,” a senior Obama Administration official told the Wall Street Journal last week. These smack-your-forehead comments are brought to you by pride and its ugly cousin narcissism. As the shutdown progresses well into its second week, the basis for the stalemate has moved away from ideological rationale and public concern and has become firmly rooted in lawmakers’ self-interest and face-saving. “Pride,” says Michael Useem, a professor of management at the Wharton School, “is a great enemy of decision making.” To call politicians prideful or even narcissistic is like saying a racecar driver has a penchant for thrills or an attorney likes to be right. “Anyone who ends up in a leadership position is self-serving,” says Thomas DeLong, a management professor at Harvard Business School. And that’s not always a bad thing. A study in the journal *Personnel Psychology* published in 2010 found that a narcissistic leader is likely to have bold vision and is “able to comfort individuals seeking a strong leader who instills them with confidence, especially in contexts in which difficult challenges need to be overcome.” But trouble arises when a leader who has succeeded at advocating for himself can’t switch to listening to others and acting on their behalf. The problem is compounded when those who surround a leader knows exactly what he wants to hear, says DeLong, like, for instance, when a congressman is surrounded by aides and colleagues. There’s an echo chamber where there should be a house of mirrors. A great leader is able to “self monitor and self regulate” the balance between pride and making decisions for the greater good, says DeLong, pointing to former Xerox CEO Anne Mulcahy, who led the company through a painful turnaround. “She held the company together as it was going under. She managed from essence not from image,” he says. On the flip side, DeLong says, “the more frightened and more positioned you become, the less self aware you are.” Welcome to Washington, where the prospect of losing endorsements and reelection support from your colleagues is lurking in every corner, particularly in the House. ❖



Thomas Friedman, New York Times: There is one group of people with an even greater interest than Democrats in President Obama prevailing over Tea Party Republicans in this shutdown showdown, and that

is mainstream Republicans. What exactly are supposedly mainstream conservatives — starting with House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell — thinking? If the “Ted Cruz Wing” of the G.O.P. prevails and forces the president to curtail Obamacare in any way in return for funding the government, mainstream conservatives will be staring at a terrible future. In the near term, they’ll be taking orders from Senator Ted Cruz, who would be crowned kingmaker of the G.O.P. if he got Obama to give in one iota on Obamacare. Cruz and his Tea Party allies would be calling the shots, and Boehner would become that very rare bird — a SPINO (a Speaker in Name Only). In the long run, because this fringe would be dictating the party line, Republicans would stand zero chance of winning the White House in 2016. Finally, given the way the Republicans have managed to gerrymander so many Congressional districts in their favor, they can easily retain control of the House under any normal economic conditions. But if they trigger a U.S. government default, a disruption in Social Security payments and economic turmoil in their effort to scuttle Obamacare — and a majority of voters blame Republicans — that could overwhelm the G.O.P.’s gerrymandered House advantage. In other words, the only thing standing between mainstream Republicans and a hellish future of kowtowing to Ted Cruz, never seeing the inside of the White House and possibly losing the House is President Obama’s refusal to give in. ❖

Petula Dvorak, Washington Post: America really loathes Washington right now, and that’s preposterous: Our Town has done nothing wrong. Washington is a place where hundreds of children couldn’t play soccer this past weekend; where cafeteria workers, janitors and secretaries aren’t getting paid for who knows how long; where Metro trains and buses run empty; and where Girl Scout troops had to cancel annual camping trips. The people of Washington didn’t want this and aren’t to blame for it either. All the crazy that led to this absurd impasse that prompted the Senate’s chaplain to pray last week, “Save us from the madness”? That’s been imported here from the rest of the country. America, you sent these guys here. They represent plenty of you, none of us. That imported brand of cuckoo is what’s causing this government shutdown. Consider that the next time you find yourself slamming Washington as a political cesspool. Or as the New York Daily News put it in its memorable “House of Turds” front page last week, “D.C. cess-pols shut down government.” The problem with that funny headline: These pols aren’t from D.C. President Dwight D. Eisenhower nailed it when he said, “There are a number of things wrong with Washington. One of them is that everyone is too far from home.” ❖



DeLaney blasts GOP over ACA

INDIANAPOLIS - key House Democrat says a lawsuit filed by the attorney general challenging the Affordable Care Act could lead to 400,000 Hoosiers losing out on tax breaks meant to make the insurance more affordable (Statehouse File). Rep. Ed Delaney of Indianapolis, who has been active on health care policy issues in the legislature, said the suit filed Tuesday by the state and 15 school districts is "dashing the hopes of Hoosiers on purpose." But Delaney went beyond blaming Zoeller and put the issue square at Gov. Mike Pence's feet. "What he's saying, as the governor of our people, is that he does not want federal tax dollars that have been paid to the federal government to be used to help the people of Indiana," Delaney said. "That is incredible. That is neglectful." Delaney said that for the state's argument to have merit, it would mean stripping the tax breaks away from all Hoosiers. He said the U.S. Supreme Court has already upheld the Affordable Care Act as constitutional in a case in which the state was a plaintiff and that the new challenge is frivolous. "Mr. Zoeller lost this argument in the Supreme Court," Delaney said. "He's asking for a do-over, a video replay."



Ritz expects GOP to strip her power

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Schools Superintendent Glenda Ritz, a Democrat, said Wednesday she is wary of what she sees as a broad effort by Republicans to strip her power,

amid growing tension between her and the State Board of Education she nominally chairs (LoBianco, Associated Press). "I just think there will probably be things coming through the legislative process that will try to diminish my power as superintendent," Ritz said Wednesday. "They could include removing me as the chair of the board; they could include overseeing more of my budget; they could include overseeing of data." Ritz's comments followed the first meeting Wednesday of a committee started despite her objections to set new goals for the Board of Education. But tension has grown in recent months between Ritz and board members who backed the education overhaul pushed by former Schools Superintendent Tony Bennett and former Gov. Mitch Daniels. Ritz campaigned hard last year against new laws including limits on collective bargaining for teachers, school vouchers and a school grading system. But board members who support those changes, such as Dan Elsener, have scrapped with her recently. Elsener pointed out that Wednesday's relatively staid meeting was evidence there's more collegiality on the board than there might appear from recent dust-ups. "I thought today was very pleasant, and I thought that the board members — whether they're governor-appointed or elected — worked quite intelligently and swiftly," he said.

Indiana 1st in drug overdoses

INDIANAPOLIS - The Trust for America's Health report ranks Indiana among the top five states with the fastest growing rates of fatal drug overdoses (WIBC). The report says the Indiana figure has quadrupled in the past ten years. Scott Watson of Indianapolis-based Heartland Intervention attributes the rise to the continued availability and misuse of prescription

pain medication. Watson says that can become a gateway for other drugs like heroin. He says parents need to remain vigilant and carefully watch their kids. Watson adds that Indiana has been criticized for not using federal resources that include expansions to Medicaid to fight substance abuse.

Pence touts state's business climate

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Pence announced that Indiana is in the top ten of the Tax Foundation's 2014 State Business Tax Climate Index. Pence stated, "We are grateful for the recognition of the progress Hoosiers have made. When it comes to state business tax climate, Indiana's ranking as tenth in the nation by the Tax Foundation is further evidence that we are on the right track in cutting taxes and reducing regulatory burden. As we continue to build upon our pro-business, pro-growth policies in the years ahead, we will continue to create the kind of environment in which businesses and Hoosiers alike can grow and thrive in Indiana."

Lake Assessor Adams eulogized

SCHERERVILLE - Former Lake County Assessor Hank Adams was remembered for his commitment to hard work, life in public service and love for his family on Wednesday afternoon (Lazerus, Post-Tribune). Adams died in his sleep Sunday morning after battling bone cancer for more than a year. He was 77. Adams served on the Schererville Town Council and as the St. John Township assessor before launching his underdog campaign for Lake County assessor in 2010. Defying the odds, Adams was elected by 610 votes, becoming the first Republican in 50 years to win countywide office.