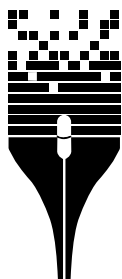


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“He ought to be happy with this, because they do call them O'Bannon's tax cuts, they don't call them mine.” ...”- Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, commenting on the “Thanks a Billion - Gov. O'Bannon” bumper stickers

Battle for House centers on 14 seats

Horse Race has 6 in the Tossup Zone

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

The bitter fight for control of the Indiana House features 14 battleground seats, including six - three Republican and three Democratic - in HPR's Horse Race tossup zone.

At this writing, Indiana Republicans will face an extremely tough challenge to pick off four Democrats in order to regain control (*See Horse Race, pages 6-8*).

In HPR's tossup zone, the GOP will have to defend Jeff Linder's open seat in HD57 in the face of a well-funded J.D. Lux challenge; Rich McClain in HD24, who will have to fend off former legislator and Cass County Sheriff Bob Sabatini; and Larry Buell in a demographically changing HD 89 seat in Marion County.

Democrats in the tossup zone including freshman Peggy Welch in the heavily Republican leaning HD60; Ron Herrell's rematch with Karen Buyer Burkhardt in Kokomo's HD30; and a challenge from former 9th CD nominee Jean Leising in Bob Bischoff's HD68.

Come next October and November, Horse Race believes these are the districts that will be seeing a great deal of money and attention.

Republicans are going to have to fend off challenges in these districts leaning their way: Ralph Ayres HD4 in LaPorte and Porter counties; appointed freshman Dan Dumezich in Lake County's HD15 (both of which are facing shifting demographics from an influx of Chicago immigrants); and Eric Turner's HD32. We believe competitive districts leaning Democratic will be Vern Tincher's historically tight HD46 in the Terre Haute area; Bob Kuzman's

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ZENDEJAS MAY RUN: The Sagamore, the student newspaper at IUPUI, has reported that former Indianapolis Public School Supt. Esperanza Zendejas is preparing to challenge Supt. of Public Instruction Suellen Reed. She told the Sagamore that it would be several weeks before she makes her decision. "Several people approached me and I started inquiring and looking at what the possibilities are and what the platforms are that I could support." The Sagamore reported that Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel said that several Central Indiana Republican county chairmen - who he declined to name - encouraged

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House Battle, from page 1

HD19 in the Crown Point area (and this one is going to be a stretch for the GOP); Dale Sturtz's HD52 in LaGrange and Noble counties; and HD94, where Jeb Bardon will have to foil any notion of a sophomore jinx.

Other districts which didn't make our initial cut, but we'll keep a close eye on, are HD76 where appointed freshman Democrat Jonathon Weinzapfel will face a challenge from Daniel Christian Hostettler, brother of U.S. Rep. John Hostettler (Gov. Frank O'Bannon carried the district with 61.5 percent in 1996); HD10 where Duane Cheney is facing a rematch with John Cannon; and HD36 where Republican Jack Lutz will face a challenge from Democrat Terri Austin. If those districts come into play by next fall, that will mean the national or statewide dynamic is running cross grain to the incumbents.

Dynamic shaper

What could shape those dynamics? The Democrats would have been an odds-on favorite to retain control of the House if Gov. O'Bannon had come out of this

legislative session strongly. Instead, he has had the worst week for a sitting governor since December 1982 when Gov. Bob Orr had to call a post-election special session to raise taxes. The \$200 million budget mistake and his suggestion of a temporary veto on top of a series of nicks over the past year has spilled his blood in shark-infested waters at this writing.

However, U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh's elevation to the national ticket would be great news for House Democrats, who picked up between three and six seats from Bayh's coattails everytime he was on the ballot.

The GOP had hoped that George W. Bush, Dick Lugar and David McIntosh leading the ticket would give them enough thrust to cut into the Democrats' House advantage if not tie or regain control. Now there is considerable doubt swirling around Bush as he attempts to fend off John McCain while spending \$60 million of his once \$70 million warchest.

In next week's HPR, we will assess the political standing of Gov. O'Bannon and legislative control if the legislature reaches its controversial sine die. ❖

HPR, Baker & Daniels announce 2000 Election Briefing Series

The Howey Political Report and Baker & Daniels announce the *HPR 2000 Briefing Series*, beginning with a *Forum on Campaign Ethics* scheduled for June 19, continuing with a fall briefing in at least five Indiana cities, and ending with a *Campaign 2000 Post-Mortem Dinner* on Reorganization Day next November.

Forum on Campaign Ethics: The forum will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 19 at the Westin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. It will feature a breakfast with U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. A luncheon will feature Gov. Frank O'Bannon and presumed Democratic Senate nominee David Johnson. The morning segment will feature the first *HPR 2000 Briefing*, coming just after the Indiana party conventions and prior to the national conventions. Jeff Lewis of TeleResearch will present his latest statewide polling, followed by commentary from HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey, Washington correspondent Mark Schoeff Jr., Ronald Gifford of Baker & Daniels, and others to be announced. At least three hours of Continuing Legal Education (including ethics) credits will be available. The Democratic and Republican attorney general nominees will be invited to speak. Registration and cost details will be announced soon. Meal and reception corporate sponsorships are available by contacting Rick Wilkerson at 317-466-0493.

HPR Fall 2000 Briefing Series: HPR, Baker & Daniels, Vectren and NUVO will hit the road in October to present its second annual *HPR Election Briefing Series*, with expected stops in South Bend, Merrillville, Fort Wayne, Evansville, New Albany and Indianapolis. This follows the highly successful '99 Briefing Series where HPR presented accurate polling and trending analysis. CLE and ethics credits will be offered at each site. Meal and reception corporate sponsorships are available.

HPR Campaign 2000 Post-Mortem: Funny how campaigns reach a crescendo on Election Night and then no one presents a comprehensive look at what has just happened. Not this time. Plan to join HPR and Baker & Daniels political commentators for an evening of cocktails and dinner, analysis, and humor, on the eve of the Indiana General Assembly's Reorganization Day. Cost of the event and speakers TBA. Meal and reception corporate sponsorships are available.

**For Corporate sponsorships:
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Zendejas to run. "The great tragedy was the fact that they ran her out when she was trying to do the things tht needed to be done," McDaniel said, in reference to the IPS School Board. Reed spokesman Terry Spradlin said that Reed is not worried about re-election. "We're operating as if we had five challengers."

US 31 COALITION FORMS: The US 31 Coalition has formed with the goal of finding new routes around the congested areas of the state's main north-south highway at Kokomo and Westfield (Susan Dillman, South Bend Tribune). The coalition had press conferences in Lakeville, Kokomo and Indianapolis. Thomas Felrath of the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County described the coalition as "investors" who will try to pry money out of state and federal coffers to fix the roadway now clogged with about 50 stoplights. INDOT estimates it would cost \$1.2 billion to convert US 31 to a limited access highway.

JOE ANDREW AND THE ELECTION WHIRLWIND: Bush has had to appeal to conservatives to fight off the stiff challenge he's getting from McCain. Joe Andrew, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, believes that dynamic helps Democrats.

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"George W. Bush has had to reveal how far right he is," Andrew told HPR. "He has done a whole lot of things that have angered Reagan Democrats." Among them is speaking at Bob Jones University in South Carolina, which has developed an anti-Catholic reputation. Bush's sudden fall from grace and Vice President Al Gore's rise in the polls demonstrate how "kinetic, dynamic and fluid" the election year will be, Andrew said. But Gore has responded to his rival in the Democratic race, former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley, by running to the left. That could help Hoosier Sen. Evan Bayh gain a place on the national ticket with Gore. "Bayh is a moderate conservative on issues and will bring Gore back to the center," said Larry Sabato, professor of political science at the University of Virginia. "You don't associate Evan Bayh with gay rights."

HOOSIERS STANDING BY BUSH: Sylvia Smith of the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette reported that Hoosier Republicans are sticking by GWBush. "Now that I've written a check to Bush, I'm with him all the way," said RNC Committeeman Robert Hiler. Said GOP Chairman Mike McDaniel, "People want to win, and they think (Bush) can win. People in our party are being more pragmatic than I've ever

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - "They" say the media is a pawn of liberal Democrats; journalists are elitist and scornful of conservatives. So how to explain the most fawning good press John McCain has gotten? The right question is what does McCain know that other politicians don't? You've read countless stories and seen plenty of clips on TV about McCain's "Straight Talk Express" bus. He sits in a captain's chair, sipping a cup of coffee and answering questions, answering questions, answering questions and then answering more questions. Amazingly, this is a radical concept for many politicians. The typical politician is so insecure about dealing with the media that he or she is hesitant about answering questions, has limited contact with reporters, uses "off the record" ad nauseum, hides behind a press secretary, "doesn't have all the information yet" about an upcoming vote, so can't talk about it and doesn't return phone calls promptly or at all. Candidates and politicians of all stripes would be smart to go to school on McCain's bus. ❖

Phil Wieland, Times of Northwest Indiana - Despite Gov. Frank O'Bannon's recent comments to the contrary, some people apparently believe there is no end to what Indiana can do with its burgeoning budget surplus. John Cannon, a Republican candidate for state representative in Porter County, is the latest to shoot off his mouth, pun intended, proposing we eliminate the state gasoline tax and make up the difference with the surplus, which he said is \$3.2 billion. Cannon obviously hopes to win votes from people who are frustrated, angry, homicidal over the 50-cents-a-gallon increase in gas prices over the past few months. Eliminating the gas

tax "will stimulate the economy and help working Hoosiers, especially those who must commute to work every day." If Cannon really wants to help Hoosier commuters, he should support adding about another nickle to the gas tax and using the additional funds to pay for a real regional mass transit system.

Bob Greene, Chicago Tribune - So where - with Joseph Grad scheduled to be released early from prison in Westville, Ind., on March 11 - is the boy he tortured? The boy is living in what by all accounts is a good, loving foster home. Marshall County children's services workers have consistently said that regulations prohibit them from discussing their decisions about the boy - "for his protection." His protection? They didn't even inform the people with whom he lives that the man who tortured him is about to walk out of prison. Late last March, the governor of Indiana, Frank O'Bannon - saying he was "appalled" by what we had reported here about the torture of the boy - vowed to personally step in to make certain that the boy "is living in a loving, nurturing, safe environment." Perhaps Gov. O'Bannon would be interested in knowing that early last June - after someone called child protective services workers to say the boy was in trouble - the child was taken to the safe foster home where he now lives. According to one of the boy's relatives, he "was so badly infested with lice and (had so many) sores from scratching and infestation, that (the foster mother) had to shave (the boy's) head and boil (his) clothing." This is how the boy was living a full two months after the governor of Indiana pledged that the state would do its very best to look after the child. ❖

Indiana Democrats split on trade

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - President Clinton is calling for help in gaining congressional approval for a trade deal with China. Some Hoosier Democrats are standing with him, others are wavering.

Earlier this week, Clinton asked the nation's governors to lobby in favor of the pact. Last week, he vowed a strong campaign to persuade lawmakers to approve the deal, which would give China permanent normal trade relations and allow it to enter the World Trade Organization (WTO) in return for China's lowering tariff and non-tariff trade barriers.

Rep. Tim Roemer (D-CD 3) supports China-WTO because it would increase car sales in China and benefit auto parts makers in his district. Roemer is mustering the New Democrat Coalition, a group of 60 moderate Democrats he co-chairs. "We're working this issue hard," said Roemer. Rep. Baron Hill (D-CD 9) supports China-WTO because it will increase agriculture exports.

But labor is stridently opposed to the agreement, citing concerns over labor rights and environmental protection. On the other side, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is galvanizing American business to fight for the pact and threatens to cause electoral consequences for representatives who oppose it.

Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh and Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-CD 1) have not taken positions. Bayh, regarded as a likely vice presidential candidate on a ticket with Vice President Al Gore, may be waiting to see how the political landscape will change between now and a likely June vote. Gore recently gave tepid support to China-WTO in talks with labor leaders.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon is not helping Clinton. "He is concerned about issues like labor and the environment," said spokeswoman Cheryl Reed. "He is not sure that this agreement is the way to go

because of those concerns. But in general, the theory is a good approach."

O'Bannon's challenger in the gubernatorial race, Rep. David McIntosh (R-CD 2), favors China-WTO because it will benefit Hoosier farmers. In the CD 2 race to fill McIntosh's seat, China trade is quiescent. "A lot of it depends on whether organized labor chooses to make this a

CONGRESS WATCH

centerpiece issue," said Ray Scheele, CD 2 Democratic chairman. "Thus far, there haven't been any interest groups coming out and asking candidates about their positions."

The Indiana AFL-CIO is circulating a four-page letter to the Hoosier congressional delegation denouncing China-WTO. "Establishing permanent normal trade relations for China will, in essence, give China a 'blank check' to continue its abuses of workers' and human rights without having to submit to an annual Congressional review," wrote Jerry Payne of the Indiana AFL-CIO. "The WTO must be overhauled to support and protect workers' basic rights and reverse the inequities in the current global economic system."

Labor heat could cause difficulty for Republican Sen. Richard Lugar by moving the debate beyond agricultural exports, which Lugar advocates as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "If labor can broaden the issue, then Lugar's going to be forced to address the problems," said Scheele. "It will be a major issue in the Senate race." David Johnson is the Democratic challenger. During a hearing on Wednesday, Lugar called for opening international markets "because it is undeniable that the prosperity of America's farm sector depends upon it. China, a market with a quarter of the world's population, holds unparalleled promise as an export market for high quality U.S. food, feed and fiber." ❖

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seen them. When he gets to Super Tuesday, he'll win big, and it'll be over." Said national committeewoman Diane Adams, "If you truly believe in someone, you have to hang in there." Fort Wayne attorney John Okeson observed, "I sense folks are a little concerned, but not worried." And U.S. Rep. Mark Souder said that if McCain racks up a few more victories, there will be massive defections from Bush. "People who just want to win will go with McCain. Shoot, I can't win without independent votes. That isn't the question here. The question is are Democrats who aren't really going to vote Republican coming over just to mess up the other party? That's not ethically right."

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR IN EAST CHICAGO: Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter is seeking a special prosecutor to review evidence in the May 1999 Democratic primary vote fraud case stemming from the Bob Pastrick/Stephen Stiglich mayoral race (Times of Northwest Indiana). Said Carter, "Early on, I felt we should recuse ourselves." Stiglich campaign co-chair Charles Pacurar told The Times, "The election is over as far as I'm concerned. I have nothing to talk about."

HIGH TECH SECURITY: Chesterton HS will unveil a

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\$400,000 video and computerized security system when it opens for classes this fall. The system will allow computers to train video cameras on teachers as they move around the 7-acre school and the 98-acre campus. The school will be the largest in Northwest Indiana. "By installing such a system, we're simply looking at the future," said Duneland School Supt. Kenneth Payne (Times of Northwest Indiana). "If you build a new high school, this is the way to go. Columbine was a suburban school that never expected a problem either." The system will feature 75 video cameras and a wireless remote tracking system.

CHILD WELFARE DROPS: Monroe County is reporting a decline in child welfare costs after years of steady growth (Bloomington Herald-Times). The cost of treating CHINs was reduced from an average of \$361,000 a month in 1998 to \$252,000 a month in 1999.

CONSOLIDATE LAKE COUNTY: Thomas McDermott of the Northwest Indiana Forum said Lake County should consolidate its governments in order to regain a competitive edge. He advocated a consolidation of the cities of Whiting and Hammond. "We can no longer afford the redundancies of government," said McDermott, the former

Indiana 2000 Racing Form

gubernatorial, congressional races

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, John R. Price. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **1996 results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** You'd have to go back to November and December 1982 to remember a worse week for a sitting governor (that's when Gov. Bob Orr had to call a post-election special session to raise taxes). Gov. O'Bannon is getting hammered - publicly by Republicans and lobbyists, but quasi-privately by Democrats, who have been stunned by the turn of events. Reps. Mark Kruzan and Dennis Avery are on record as saying O'Bannon is getting "bad advice." O'Bannon's "temporary veto" proposal that could bring the legislature back in July has everyone's eyes rolling. The \$200 million budget debacle is playing right into the McIntosh "lack of leadership theme." A veto of Medicaid eligibility guidelines is literally a life and death issue that has the potential to bring devastating criticism. The series of nicks we've been talking about for a year now (troopers, Muscatatuck, Sexise Police, teachers pension fund, White River fishkill, surplus decrease) is now hemorrhaging blood in the water, and the sharks are starting to gather. Bob Greene's *Chicago Tribune* columns (see page 5) could be the topic of devastating TV ads for the GOP nominee. We sense that the governor is losing his grip and is running out of time to get things turned around. Republican gubernatorial candidate John R. Price asks the question, "Are Indiana's learning disabled students being educationally abused by the ISTEP Graduation Qualifying Exam?" About 50 percent of special education students in the Class of 2000 have yet to pass the GQE. **General Status:** *Leans O'Bannon ...but*

HORSE R A C E

Congressional District 2: Republican: Mike Pence, State Rep. Jeff Linder, Brad Steele, Luke Messer, Cliff Federle, David Campbell. **Democrat:** Ron Gyure, Bob Rock Jr., Troy Liggett, Angela Burks. **Independent:** Bill Fraizer. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Results:** McIntosh (R) 99,584, Boles (D) 62,426, Federle (L) 2,236. **2000 Forecast:** Two polls have been released. A Wilson Research Strategies Poll (Feb. 23-24, 400 likely Republicans, +/- 5) for Pence has him leading 26.5 percent to 8.5 percent for Messer and 7 percent for Linder. Pence's fav/unfavs were 40/7 percent. Pence is running well where his radio show had aired: Anderson, part of Muncie and Richmond, as well as the southern part of the district. Messer released a TeleResearch Poll showing his name ID was at 49 percent and favorable rating at 34 percent, compared to 73/55 for Pence and 47/30 for Linder. "In three months my name ID has risen by about 800 percent," said Messer. "We have two months until primary election day, so obviously we are very optimistic." Here is how the *Cook Political Report* reads the 2nd CD: "Though Democrats are still scrambling to keep this seat in play, even Democratic strategists privately admit that (Joe) Hogsett is the only Democrat who could win this conservative, Republican-leaning district. Hogsett's departure from the race has left Democrats without a particularly strong field. Democratic insiders in the state believe the nomination is likely to go to either Rock or Gyure." Rock reported raising \$35,000. Burks will be hosting fundraisers in New York City and DC and could be a factor, particularly if she finds traction with black voters in Anderson, which could hurt Rock's base. On the GOP front, *Cook* observed, "Messer's role as campaign manager for moderate ... 10th CD candidate Virginia Blankenbaker (in 1996) has led some conservatives to balk at his conservative credentials. Messer is hoping that his close association with McIntosh and key McIntosh allies will give him an edge in the race." On Steele, *Cook* wrote, "He hasn't paid dues with the party yet (and) few insiders are taking him seriously." On Pence, *Cook* reported, "Though Pence admits that he has made his fair share of mistakes (in 1988 and 1990 against Phil Sharp), recent polling here puts a stake in the theory that he is carrying a lot of heavy political baggage." And *Cook* concluded, "Pence or Linder is likely to emerge as the nominee. The seat remains in the Likely Republican column." Linder has begun

sending "warm and fuzzy" direct mail. GOP debates have been scheduled for 7 p.m. March 29 at the IU-East Auditorium in Richmond, 7 p.m. March 31 at Bundy Auditorium in New Castle; at April 7 at the Muncie City Hall. **Primary Status:** *Leans Pence (R); Tossup (D)*.

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

John Hamilton, Dr. Paul Perry, John W. Taylor. **Geography:** Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Forecast:** Watch for a shakeup in the Hamilton camp. Perry begins his television ad campaign. *Cook Political Report* has this race "Leans Republican." **Democratic Primary Status:** *TOSSUP*.

2000 house races

House District 4: Republican: Rep. Ralph Ayres. **Democrat:** Mike Bucko.

Geography: Porter, LaPorte counties. **1994 Results:** Ayres (R) 14,672. **1996 Results:** Ayres 20,986. **1998 Results:** Ayres 14,207. **2000 Forecast:** Ayres announced he will seek his 11th term. He is one of only two Northwest Indiana legislators on the House Ways and Means Committee. Bucko is a Porter County councilman at large. House Democrats believe the demographics of this district are much friendlier, so Ayres will be in for his first real race. We'll keep an eye on this one. **Status:** *LEANS R*.

House District 15: Republican: State Rep. Dan Dumezich. **Democrat:** Kevin. J.

Duda. **Geography:** Schereville, Merrillville, Lake County. **1994 results:** Fesko (R) 9,159, Savage (D) 3,743. **1996 Results:** Fesko (R) 15,134. **1998 Results:** Fesko (R) 9,914, Blacklund (L) 986. **2000 Forecast:** With Rep. Tim Fesko's resignation, Democrats believe they have a chance to pick up the last GOP House seat in Lake County. While this has been a strong GOP district, without an incumbent, it could come into play and, at least, draw Republican resources into defending their turf. The demographics are also shifting here. With Chicagoans migrating in, this district could eventually go D. The question is whether that will happen in 2000. **Status:** *LEANS R*.

House District 19: Republican: Ron Johnson. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Kuzman.

Geography: Crown Point, south Lake County. **1994 results:** Conlon (R) 8,850, McCall (D) 5,280. **1996 Results:** Kuzman (D) 12,236, Sparks (R) 10,453. **1998 Results:** Kuzman 9,130, Gasparovic (R) 6,917. **2000 Forecast:** Republicans recruited Johnson, a Lutheran youth pastor, to challenge Kuzman. Republicans still believe they can win this seat back, but Kuzman is a top flight candidate and the influx of Chicago Democrats migrating into Lake County will make this a tough seat for the GOP to land. **Status:** *LEANS D*.

House District 24: Republican: Rep. Rick McClain. **Democrat:** Bob Sabatini.

Geography: Logansport, Cass, Carroll, Miami counties. **1994 results:** McClain 10,421, Frantz (D) 7,686. **1996 Results:** McClain 15,538. **1998 Results:** McClain 10,281, Fincher (D) 7,345. **2000 Forecast:** Republicans acknowledge that Sabatini will be a tough challenge for McClain. Sabatini, a former Cass County sheriff, reclaimed the seat after 22 years in the GOP column and helped forge the first 50/50 House split. This will be a battleground seat. **Status:** *TOSSUP*.

House District 30: Republican: Karen Burkhardt. **Democrat:** State Rep. Ron

Herrell. **Geography:** Kokomo, Howard County. **1994 Results:** Padfield (R) 8,589, Howard 7,363. **1996 Results:** Padfield 10,775, Herrell 9,660. **1998 Results:** Herrell 7,711, Burkhardt (R) 7,520. **2000 Forecast:** This will be an intense rematch between former Rep. Burkhardt, chosen to fill out Padfield's term, and U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer's sister, and Herrell, who won by fewer than 200 votes. This stands to be one of the premier races. National and statewide dynamics could greatly influence this rematch. **Status:** *TOSSUP*.

House District 32: Republican: State Rep. Eric Turner. **Democrat:** Bart

Herriman. **Geography:** Madison, Grant and Miami counties. **1994 results:** Turner (R) 9,496, Beck (D) 7,722. **1996 Results:** Turner 13,188, Stanley (D) 8,981. **1998 Results:** Turner 10,006, Schmidt (D) 6,607. **2000 Forecast:** Herriman is an assistant attorney for Senate

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mayor of Hammond. "We have to decide to change, or changes we don't want will happen." Whiting Mayor Robert Bercik said he agreed that cities should work together to cut costs, but did not endorse consolidating Whiting and Hammond. Lake County is made up of 19 cities and towns. McDermott said that without changes, the county's industrial base will erode and the burden of supporting government dramatically shift to property owners. BP-Amoco, Ipsat Inland and USX are some of the major employers who are warning that unless there is a change in the county's tax structure, plants will close and corporate investment will stop. "It is time we fought for change to save Northwest Indiana so that we can guarantee for our children what our parents guaranteed for us - a better quality of life," McDermott said.

CLINTON DEFENSE FUND: The Gary Post-Tribune reported that in the last six months of 1999, President Clinton's legal defense fund collected \$5,600 from 143 Indiana residents. The fund has collected \$800,000 nationwide. Clinton's legal bills are currently about \$4.3 million.

VANDEBURGH TRUCE: Democrats in Vanderburgh County are circling the wagons after losing the Evansville mayoral race last

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November. Jayne Berry-Bland and Betty Knight Smith had both filed for the Democratic nomination for recorder. As one observer put it, "They had each other." That's when Democratic Chairman Jack Waldroup asked Berry-Bland to sit this one out and the two-term county treasurer agreed.

ULLMANN HOSPITALIZED: Harrison Ullmann, editor emeritus of NUVO News-weekly in Indianapolis, is hospitalized at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis for lung cancer. Letters and cards can be sent to Ullmann at: Room 5207, St. Vincent's Hospital, 2001 W. 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46260. "I am getting radiation treatment and I hope to be back sooner rather than later," Ullmann said. HPR's Brian Howey told his boss that he would visit on Thursday and asked, "Is there anything I can bring you that you're not supposed to have?" Ullmann responded, "A bottle of wine."

HOWEY AT BOWEN: HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey will appear at the Bowen Institute on the Ball State University campus from 2 to 3 p.m. April 8. Howey will join a panel with Larry Lough from the Muncie Star Press and Jim Shella of WISH-TV.



Democrats, grew up in the district and Democrats expect him to run well in Grant County. Said one party observer, "He's energetic, hungry and knows how to run a campaign." Turner will be tough to beat after turning back a well-funded effort in 1996. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

House District 46: Republican: John David Carson, Terry English. **Democrat:** Rep. Vern Tincher. **Geography:** Vigo, Greene, Brown, Monroe, Sullivan counties. **1994 Results:** Lohr 8,160, Tincher 8,034. **1996 Results:** Tincher 9,858, Lohr 9,759, Minx 531. **1998 Results:** Tincher 9,401, Lohr 6,964. **2000 Forecast:** English just lost a Spencer City Council race that was involved in a recount. Carson apparently has the backing of Vigo County Chairman David Lohr, who ran extremely close to Tincher in 1996. This will be one worth keeping an eye on. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

House District 52: Republican: Ken Wonderly. **Democrat:** Rep. Dale Sturtz. **Geography:** LaGrange, Noble counties. **1994 Results:** Sturtz (D) 6,837, LeCount (R) 5,789. **1996 Results:** Sturtz 10,049, Hanneman (R) 6,258. **1998 Results:** Sturtz 6,677, Wonderly 6,385. **2000 Forecast:** Sturtz got a scare in '98, but the former LaGrange County sheriff appears to be ready for battle this time. Wonderly will be well-funded and any kind of GOP wave could sweep him in. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

House District 57: Republican: Mike Herndon. **Democrat:** J.D. Lux. **Geography:** Shelbyville, Shelby, Bartholomew and Rush counties. **1994 Results:** Linder (R) 12,626. **1996 Results:** Linder 13,730, Thayer (D) 6,704. **1998 Results:** Linder 12,741. **2000 Forecast:** With Shelby County GOP Chair Roger Laird dropping out due to legal problems, the Republicans got the best candidate possible - former Shelby County sheriff Herndon. Republicans have to defend this seat in order to have any chance to retake control of the House. Lux and state Democrats know it. This could be one of the most expensive races in the cycle. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 60: Republican: John Shean. **Democrat:** State Rep. Peggy Welch. **Geography:** Bloomington, Bloomfield, Lawrence. Greene and Monroe Counties. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Results:** Welch 10,172, Ellington 8,987. **2000 Forecast:** The Republicans successfully kept Jeff Ellington out of the primary and will coalesce around Shean, who looks to be a quality candidate. However, Welch has never really stopped campaigning and with her magnetic personality, will be tough to knock off. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 68: Republican: Jean Leising. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Bischoff. **Geography:** Lawrenceburg. **1994 results:** Bischoff 9,427, Ketcham (R) 8,993. **1996 Results:** Bischoff (D) 12,088, Fehrman (R) 8,968. **1998 Results:** Bischoff 11,881, Kristoff (L) 1,742. **2000 Forecast:** Bischoff had a tough race in '94, but did OK in the last presidential year. While Leising won the district in her three 9th CD races against Lee Hamilton and Baron Hill, neither of the Democrats put a lot of resources into the 68th. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 89: Republican: State Rep. Larry Buell. **Democrat:** Brian Sims. **Geography:** SW Indianapolis, Irvington, Beech Grove. **1994 Results:** Buell (R) 9,583, Feeney (D) 5,770. **1996 Results:** Buell 11,281, Osborn (D) 7,872. **1998 Results:** Buell 8,235, Jeffers (D) 5,761, Hubertz (L) 230. **2000 Forecast:** Sims is expected to test the durability of the new Indianapolis Democratic organization and the creaky nature of the GOP. Mayor Bart Peterson won it in 1999 and O'Bannon polled 49.6 percent in '96. Other than trying to save one class high school basketball, Buell has not been a real high profile legislator and tends to get lost in the media coverage of Indy politics. Sims is young and energetic, and will probably be well-funded. We sense a real battle shaping up here, and a demographic shift similar to what occurred in HD94 in 1998. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 94: Republican: Shane Brinkman, Paul Ogden. **Democrat:** State Rep. Jeb Bardon. **Geography:** NW Indianapolis. **1994 Results:** Morris (Marendt) 7,838, Reasoner 5,537. **1996 Results:** Marendt 10,396, Hinman 9,586, Neal 422. **1998 Results:** Bardon 8,411, Marendt 6,834. **2000 Forecast:** Marion County Republicans slated Ogden, but will have to fend off a primary challenge from Joyce Brinkman's son. The Republican nominee will have to be on target and message in order to have a chance to take out Bardon, already a seasoned politico in a district where demographics get better for the Ds (Peterson won it with 58.9 percent in '99 and O'Bannon won it with 56.1 percent in '96). **Status:** *LEANS D.*

- Brian A. Howey ❖