

The Howey Political Report



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Brian A. Howey, publisher

Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington writer

Jack E. Howey, editor

The Howey Political Report Office: 317-254-1533
PO Box 40265 Fax: 317-466-0993
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265 Mobile: 317-506-0883

brianhowey@earthlink.net
www.howeypolitics.com

Washington office: 202-775-3242 Business Office: 317-254-0535.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I didn’t think you could get elected out here if you can’t play basketball and do it well...”

- U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy

Taking the pulse of the emboldened D’s

Momentum shift has R’s regrouping

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

The Howey Political Report

FRENCH LICK - I’ve attended the annual summer rhetoric fest we know as the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association for seven years now. It’s my fun-loving way of taking the pulse of the Hoosier Democratic Party.

Sometimes I’m pretty good at detecting the number of beats, how shallow or how pumped the rooster’s heart is, like 1994 when Lee Hamilton showed up on the eve of a historic debacle and scolded the party for abandoning President Clinton. In 1996, the party seemed cohesive, on-message and united behind Frank O’Bannon as Evan Bayh slipped into a two-year hiatus - the first hints of an incredible upset. And in 1998 I flat-out blew it when I compared the Democrats partying on the Titanic-like French Lick Springs Resort veranda as a ship of fools sailing into Hurricane Monica. They prevailed nicely in the elections two months later, picking up the Indiana House, while I was consoled by my prediction of a looming impeachment of the President.

I wish I had the same opportunity to rub shoulders with Republican officeholders, candidates, operatives and hacks as I do at IDEA, but the IREA hasn’t been heard from in years and the Congress of Counties treats reporters like salmonella on a convention floor egg salad sandwich. And there shouldn’t be so much irony that the Grand Old Party finds itself constantly misunderstood - its ideas “stolen,” as Al Hubbard might put it - for so many years by the press and public in what is now a 12-year gubernatorial drought.

So this is my report on the pulse of Hoosier Democrats, after a barrage of rhetoric and propaganda, sto

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LUGAR FOR VEEP? The July 17 edition of U.S. News & World Report had U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar on George W. Bush's short list for veep, along with Christopher Cox, Frank Keating, John Kasich and Chuck Hagel. But Lugar spokesman Andy Fisher said there has been "no conversations, meetings or requests for documents." Would that have happened by now? "Oh, yeah," Fisher said. "The senator has been saying that it's 'not in the cards.' We're hearing he's going to make the decision next week." How about a potential cabinet post? "Absolutely not," Fisher said.

BUSH LEADS GORE: A Pew Research Poll taken in the last week of June showed Bush leading Gore 42 to 35 percent, with 2 percent for both Pat Buchanan and Ralph Nader. The poll also showed Gore leading Bush in California 43 to 36 percent and in New York, 46 to 37 percent.

U.S. HOUSE OUTLOOK: Washington-based analyst Stuart Rothenberg writes in the Rothenberg Political Report's June 30 edition, "Our race-by-race analysis continues to suggest that the Democrats have greater opportunities for gains than do the Republicans. In fact, 11 of our 15 toss-ups

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Democrats, *from page 1*

ries and jokes, a stealthy talk about e-technology, and a poll - possibly a push poll - by Fred Yang that showed O'Bannon leading David McIntosh by an astounding 25 points. Oh yeah, there was a good measure of statesmanship and a celebration of humanity thrown into the poly-blender as well. Here is my report, as told through the principal characters of this long, thirsty weekend. My lone regret is that it will be 13 months until the next one.

Frank O'Bannon

So, when was the last time you shot a basketball? I think I saw you swish one in the last election cycle, didn't I?

O'Bannon laughed as his entourage showed up at the barbecue. "I haven't been shooting much lately," he said.

Two things were the talk of the convention: the Gus Macker basketball game the Democratic ticket was to play against the tuba-playing McIntosh a week hence, and the gas tax cut in wake of surging fuel prices.

Two months ago, it was the gover-

nor's campaign that seemed to have lost its bearings. The legislative session had been an embarrassment. The White River fish kill still lingered. McIntosh went up on the air for eight weeks without a response. There was a string of critical editorials on reassessment, the residual effects of his legislative edict against any new spending, and then the FSSA expose the *Indianapolis Star* reported, with nine disabled residents dead. When HPR/TeleResearch went into the field in mid-June - before FSSA - it came back a 44 to 40 O'Bannon lead, with rising prices as the surging issue. With a spirited economy and listless incumbency, it looked possible that O'Bannon might become the first governor to lose re-election.

Then came the gas tax suspension. It knocked the FSSA story off the front pages and the top of broadcasts, bringing O'Bannon the kind of national exposure governors salivate over. It made O'Bannon look decisive, rendering the lack of leadership claim McIntosh was pushing temporarily useless.

And it's the gift that keeps on giving. The initial nickle or dime that Hoosier motorists were saving in early

July has evolved into a 30-cent-a-gallon drop. Prices in Paoli were \$1.31 a gallon, and in Indianapolis they were a \$1.51.

The more the gas prices drop, the more credit the governor gets. If O'Bannon wins this election - and it's still way too early to be so bold - it may very well be the gas tax suspension will be seen as the shrewdest use of incumbency in memory.

That contrasted with a string of McIntosh goof-ups that had Grand Old Warriors gasping in horror - the 500 Parade show-down; the "bullshit" comment to the *Star*'s George Stuteville; the Gus Macker basketball game presenting a potential "Dukakis-in-the-Tank" moment; and, finally, the lack of details on his 25-percent tax cut plan. On the previous Thursday, WISH's Jim Shella and WRTV's Norm Cox had peppered the congressman for a timetable on his plan, and McIntosh just smiled and kept saying "Soon." Over the weekend, McIntosh

showed up to a virtually empty gym in Kokomo to play the phantom Democrats in hoops.

These events, transpiring in a tandem but unpredictable spiral, have created a dramatic sense of a momentum shift. If Yang's 25-percent lead is even close to being accurate, then the bottom of the McIntosh campaign has dropped out and his money will become scarce. If the numbers are indeed bogus, the McIntosh campaign didn't appear to understand the deepening skepticism in the ranks of the news media and did little to offset them.

When O'Bannon spoke to the party faithful Saturday night, he bowed to the efforts of a state-of-the-art party apparatus - the GOTV, door-to-door and CD-Rom walking lists. But then the governor noted the big jar of change that Glen and Esther Broyles had brought to French Lick - four years of loose change they had emptied

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(including Indiana's 8th CD) are currently held by the GOP, as are five of the eight toss-up/tilting races. At this point, four months before Election Day, we continue to expect Democratic gains, most likely in the order of four to seven seats. Since the Democrats need a net gain of six for control, the House is obviously up for grabs."

DEMOCRATS REPORT RECORD FUNDRAISING:

Democratic National Chairman Joe Andrew released figures showing the party has raised \$64 million, with more than \$35 million cash on hand. "Thanks to the American people - and despite the fact that we have been running a multi-million-dollar media campaign - we have more cash on hand than at any time in the history of the Democratic National Committee," Andrew said.

INDIANA HOUSE OUT-LOOK:

State Reps. Russ Stilwell and Dave Crooks were predicting at the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association convention last weekend that their caucus will win 56 seats on Nov. 7. The Democrats currently have a 53-47 lead. The two believe the Democrats are poised to pick up HD24 (Bob Sabatini over Rep. Rick McClain), HD57 (J.D. Lux over Mike Herndon for the Jeff Linder open seat)

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Reality check time for McIntosh

INDIANAPOLIS - With the glare of media attention resolutely affixed to details of David McIntosh's "guaranteed 25-percent tax cut," press spokesman Rob Collins acknowledged Tuesday morning, "I guess we'll be taking our hits on this. We brought that on ourselves a bit."

Collins said that Pat Kiely, Rep. Jeff Espich, Joe Loftus and Kevin Brinegar have essentially finished the detailed work on the plan. "It looks good," he said. "We only have one shot to sell it so we have to do it right."

To echo the questions of TV reporters Jim Shella and Norm Cox: "When?" Collins responded, "The biggest thing is, David's nervous about the Congressional schedule. There's a lot of year-end stuff and Congress recesses in August. Things are jammed up. We need to find a day to do it when there aren't any fundraisers or votes."

When? Will it really be in the first week of August? Collins said that was possible, "but sooner, I hope."

Collins wondered why all of the media attention was centered on the McIntosh tax plan. He said the press should be pushing Gov. O'Bannon on his plan, centered on removing welfare off property taxes. Outside of Marion, Lake and Porter, the rural counties are going to see only a 1 or 2 percent decrease, Collins said. "They've done a good job of attacking us and ducking. That's our fault. It is a frustrating time for everyone. Truly they have no plan, but we are being held to an unbelievable standard."

Is the McIntosh campaign fully aware of the perceived momentum shift, Yang poll or not? Collins acknowledged the gasoline tax cut. "We've got to regroup a little bit. David has told us, 'Don't worry. Stick with the plan.'"

And the Gus Macker basketball game? "We'll be there," Collins said. ❖

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and HD32 (Bart Herriman over Rep. Eric Turner). Races "on the bubble" included HD19 (Rep. Bob Kuzman v. Ron Johnson) in Lake County; HD30 (Rep. Ron Herrell v. Karen Buyer Burkhardt) in Kokomo; HD 52 (Rep. Dale Sturtz v. Ken Wonderly) in LaGrange and Noble counties; HD60 (Rep. Peggy Welch v. John Shean) in Bloomington and Bloomfield; and HD68 (Rep. Bob Bischoff v. Jean Leising) in Southeast Indiana.

POPULAR LEGISLATION: Almost 30,000 persons have called the Indiana attorney general's office supporting legislation that would create a don't-call list telemarketers would have to use (Shannon Lohrmann, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel). Both Democrat Karen Freeman-Wilson and Republican Steve Carter say the legislation is at the top of their wish list when the 2001 General Assembly meets. The state is taking names, and if the legislation passes, the people who have called in support of it will be on the initial list.

STATE POLICE MIGHT BE SUED: Former State Police trooper Ben Endres, who was fired in April for refusing to work at the Blue Chip Casino at Michigan City because of religious beliefs, received a letter last week from the Equal Employment Opportunity

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Democrats, *from page 3*

out of their pockets. As two Democrats poured the big jar of quarters, nickles, dimes and pennies into a bag, O'Bannon looked to the crowd and said, "Can you hear that? Can you hear that? What we just heard was the knocking on doors, the dialing of phones, the use of all our talents. They all add up. That's the purpose of politics: take what we have, help others and move forward."

Robin Winston

As Gov. O'Bannon left the stage, Indiana Chairman Robin Winston noted the Broyleses' change sitting in a bag - about \$1,500 worth - and simply quipped, "What they just did is pay for about 25,000 phone calls."

Evan Bayh

With almost baseball like superstition, Sen. Evan Bayh and those on his payroll are simply not even entertaining the subject of the veepstakes. Most acknowledge that he's on the short list, although CNN's website posted on July 14 didn't even mention Bayh in its group of contenders.

So while Evan Bayh didn't mention the words "Al Gore" during his speech at IDEA, he was more than comfortable with talking about George W. Bush's push for a tax cut. "His initiative is not only to take every dollar of the surplus for a tax cut, but it will take us back to the days of high debt and deficits. Folks, we've seen that movie already," Bayh said. "The size of this tax cut is 80 times larger than his education investment. Is it really 80 times more important than educating our kids?"

So what was the buzz in the hallways at French Lick? One story from credible sources was that Evan Bayh was second on virtually everybody's short list in the Gore inner circle.

Joe Kernan

The heir to the post-Bayh-O'Bannon era was caustic and bombastic and had the Democrats rollicking. The big difference between the lieutenant governor and David McIntosh? "Next January I'll have a job and he won't," Kernan said.

The parade controversies? "This guy is a parade Nazi," Kernan said of McIntosh's efforts to march in parades in Indianapolis, LaPorte and Highland. "He broke all the rules and made it political. Those red shirts are soon to be brown shirts."

And the remedy? "There is now a support group for parade organizers and an ankle bracelet for McIntosh to know where he is."

And McIntosh's current job? "He's missed 173 votes and 80 have been since June."

And the gas tax cut? "It was extraordinary leadership," Kernan said. "Bold leadership. No one had a clue on what to do about it."

Late, late Saturday night on the veranda, HPR's publisher came face to face with the lieutenant governor over a game of euchre. We took a 6-3 lead over Kernan and Rep. Dave Crooks, only to lose 10-6 to this tough son of a gun.

That game conjured images of Kernan's final thoughts in his speech. "While we're up by 25 points," Kernan concluded, "the stakes are very high. It's important to keep our foot on this guy's neck."

Patrick Kennedy

The Rhode Island congressman heads the DCCC and provided a history lesson after visiting every banquet table and posing for dozens of photos. "In 1994 we had the lowest voter turnout in history," Kennedy said. "And look who comes to power. The right wing is out there; they'll always be out there. The difference is whether we're out there." ♦

Medicare emerges in House races

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - In the volatile 8th CD, one thing is certain - someone has miscalculated the health care issue. The question is whether it is Democratic challenger Paul Perry or incumbent GOP Rep. John Hostettler. The answer might determine who wins this fall.

In one of this summer's key votes, the House of Representatives passed a Republican Medicare prescription drug plan, 217-214, in late June mostly along party lines. Mostly. Hostettler is one of 10 Republicans who voted against the measure, a \$40 billion proposal in which the federal government would cover 35 percent of the cost of coverage through private insurance plans.

The government would pay for half of prescription drug costs up to \$2,100 annually and all costs over \$6,000. The monthly premium would be \$35, with a \$250 annual deductible. House Republicans blocked consideration of a Democratic plan that would offer prescription drug coverage through the traditional Medicare program. Senate action is uncertain.

Perry, an orthopedic surgeon who has made health care his mantra, said that Medicare prescription coverage resonates vividly. "Of all the issues I've talked about, the prescription drug issue hits the closest to home, especially for seniors, but it doesn't stop there," he said. Perry said that during recent fairs in Warrick, Gibson, and Pike counties, people would seek him out to tell him their prescription drug stories. He also attributes his fundraising success - \$248,000 for the quarter ending June 30 - to the health care issue.

"Voters, constituents, patients of mine: these are the people who know we have a big problem," he said. "John Hostettler has confirmed for everybody that he's not going to help them."

Hostettler voted against the GOP

Medicare prescription drug coverage bill because of its potential cost. Less than half of Medicare recipients have annual prescription drug bills that would total

CONGRESS WATCH

Jahr, Hostettler's congressional spokesman. Only patients with high costs and major needs would participate. "If that's the case, the entire plan collapses." Jahr said Hostettler doesn't advocate a particular Medicare solution.

Hostettler, who also has worked crowds at district fairs and parades, has a starkly different impression of voter sentiment about health care. "My sense is that it hasn't been a real prominent issue," said Jahr.

A staffer who travels with Hostettler in the district concurred. "People don't come up and ask him about that issue," said Jim Banks, Hostettler's campaign press secretary. "If they ask about any issue, it's the gun vote. And they're asking him to do more."

The "gun vote" was a series of Hostettler amendments that he tried to attach to recent appropriations bills. The amendments were designed to block the enforcement of an agreement between the federal government and Smith & Wesson. Under the pact, state and local governments would drop lawsuits against Smith & Wesson and give its guns preference in purchases made by local law enforcement. In exchange, the gun manufacturer would implement gun-safety devices and sales practices. Two of the three Hostettler amendments failed.

Although the gun vote may be on some 8th CD voters' minds, the health care issue is on their television, thanks to television ads being run by Citizens for Better Medicare, a coalition of pharma-

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Commission telling him his case has been referred to the U.S. Department of Justice for review (Jennifer Mack-Detrick), South Bend Tribune). The EEOC sided with Endres last month, but called its ruling non-binding. Endres now works as an investigator for the St. Joseph County prosecutor.

LUGAR BILL AIMS TO EASE HEALTH CARE CLAIMS:

The processing of Medicare claims needs to be brought into the age of technology, Indiana's Sen. Richard Lugar believes, and he has introduced a bill to install an advanced computer network to simplify doctor bills and save the federal government money (Jessica Wehmann, Scripps Howard News Service). Lugar says the health care industry is perhaps the only industry in the nation largely untouched by technology.

I-69 ALONG INDIANA 67?:

Steve Cecil, an INDOT deputy commissioner, says a report the department is favoring an I-69 route through Owen and Greene counties is just a rumor (Steve Hinnefeld, Bloomington Herald-Times). Cecil said an environmental impact study will determine the route of the highway to connect Indianapolis and Evansville. Running the interstate west of Indiana 37 could bypass opposition in the Bloomington area. The

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study is expected to take two years.

Gore might choose VEEP to steal GOP

THUNDER: There was speculation on Tuesday that Vice President Al Gore - seeking ways to minimize the Republican post-convention bump in the polls - will announce his running mate within hours after the Republican National Convention closes. Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh is considered to be in the so-called "top tier" of potential candidates. The GOP convention ends during the first week of August and the Democrats meet on Aug. 15.

FOP ENDORSES ATTORNEY GENERAL: The Indiana State Fraternal Order of Police has endorsed Attorney General Karen Freeman-Wilson, the Democrat. The FOP has 12,000 members.

LAKES DON'T KNOW DROUGHT'S OVER: The drought in Indiana and much of the rest of the Midwest has been officially declared over, and although inland waters have been largely replenished Lake Michigan is still at a low level (Dave Orrick, Gary Post-Tribune). Cynthia Sellinger, a physical scientist with the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab in Ann Arbor, says that's because the lake is so large and has a relatively

ceutical companies, the Chamber of Commerce, senior and patient groups. The spots have been up across the country since March, advocating a system in which seniors can choose from private insurance plans for their Medicare coverage.

Although he disagrees with the advocacy group's policy prescription, Perry said its ads prove his point about the saliency of the health care topic in the 8th CD. "Why is this phony coalition running ads on TV in Evansville if this is not an issue in the district?"

The group tends to focus on smaller markets like Evansville because airtime is less expensive, said Dan Zielinski, a CBM spokesman. Although the nationwide ad campaign is being backed by a "significant amount of resources," he denied that local politics influences their decisions. In fact, the 8th CD race is not on his radar. "I haven't heard that race come up," he said.

Medicare Shots in 5th CD

The Medicare prescription drug coverage issue also has fomented skirmishes in the 5th CD. Incumbent Republican Rep. Steve Buyer voted in favor of the Republican bill, calling it a fiscally responsible way to guarantee access to prescription drug coverage for rural seniors. Greg Goodnight, his Democratic challenger, wasted no time in

attacking, holding a press conference at the Kokomo Senior Citizens Center after the House vote.

The GOP bill "leaves it all up to the private insurance companies, and that doesn't help seniors," said Wyatt Hornsby, Goodnight's spokesman. "It's such a huge issue in the district."

Goodnight scheduled a press conference for Tuesday at the Marion/Grant County Seniors Center in Marion to denounce the House appropriations bill on health and human services. Goodnight claims that the measure undermines Medicare and reduces funding for long-term care and nursing home oversight.

Buyer, who has sponsored his share of health care events in the district, including a July 6 meeting with 17 northern and central Indiana hospital administrators to discuss Medicare reimbursements for rural hospitals, issued a statement in advance of the Goodnight press conference. "While attending parades and fairs throughout Indiana's 5th district this month, I have heard from Hoosiers expressing their thanks for Congress finally passing more affordable and accessible health care bills," he said. He cited a vote to increase funding for community health care centers by \$70 million, benefiting the Indiana Health Care Center in Kokomo. ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Larry MacIntyre, *Indianapolis Star*

- Last Wednesday, this column took issue with Gov. Frank O'Bannon's claim in a radio ad that "Indiana test scores are above average." The column argued that O'Bannon's claim was so exaggerated that it stretched the truth to the breaking point. Test scores for ISTEP, SAT and ACT are nothing to be proud of in Indiana. But the ad made another claim that is even more

misleading. The ad's soothing female voice tells us, "And today, Indiana's academic standards have been rated among the highest in the nation." That sounds great, except for one thing. It's not referring to standards currently in use. It refers only to a new set of standards for teaching English that are to be put into place in 2002. The first Indiana students who may actually be tested will graduate in 2007. ❖

Indiana 2000 Racing Form

GOVERNOR, congressional races

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. Democrat: Gov. Frank

O'Bannon. Libertarian: Andrew Horning. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** In what is the first phase of gubernatorial candidates filling in the fiscal blanks, Gov. Frank O'Bannon announced the June 30 year-end fiscal numbers that showed a \$1.6 billion surplus. McIntosh's campaign said he will provide additional data on his proposed guaranteed 25-percent property tax cut by early August. O'Bannon said the state surplus is projected to decline to \$1.2 billion next year. "I don't see, in my experience and knowledge, how a 25-percent tax cut can be paid for out of these revenues," O'Bannon said on Wednesday. But McIntosh said the surplus numbers are evidence the state can afford his tax cuts. "Hoosier taxpayers have overpaid the state of Indiana to the tune of \$1.6 billion. It is time to give them a meaningful, real tax cut," McIntosh said. He added that the administration "has failed to plan for reassessment and is saying there is no money for tax cuts while sitting on billions of dollars." Libertarian Andrew Horning sent McIntosh a letter seeking an invitation to the final five debates he wanted to have with O'Bannon this summer. O'Bannon has refused to attend. "Over the past couple of weeks McIntosh and O'Bannon have focused their campaigns on a pickup basketball game," Horning said, adding, "I don't need a basketball challenge to discuss property tax relief or any of the issues facing Hoosiers this year." **General Status:** *Leans O'Bannon.*

U.S. Senate: Republican: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. Democrat: David L. Johnson.

1988 results: Lugar (R) 1,430,525, Wickes (D) 668,778. **1994 results:** Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz (D) 470,799, Bourland (L) 17,343, Barton (A) 15,801. **2000 Forecast:** The Johnson campaign has come to life, holding press conferences on issues on two consecutive days this week, including a debate challenge on Tuesday. The *Indianapolis Star* reported on Sunday that Lugar's Freedom to Farm Act has actually resulted in higher farm subsidies for Hoosier farmers, rising from \$378 million in 1993 to \$464 million in 1998. The *Star* quoted Kendallville farmer Greg Gunthrop as saying that it is "the biggest failure in the history of agricultural policy. I think the numbers speak for themselves." Lugar was quoted, saying, "Critics call it Freedom to Fail, but I would suggest that another aspect is that Congress and the president have not wanted a single farmer to fail." The Indiana State Building and Construction Trades Council endorsed Johnson. **Status:** *Safe Lugar.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: Mike Pence. Democrat: Robert Rock Jr.

Independent: Bill Frazier. **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:** Frazier began a significant TV ad campaign and may spend up to \$500,000 of his own money from now until November. Pence leads Democrat Robert Rock Jr. in cash on hand. Last week, Pence's campaign put out a statement saying that his campaign has more than \$196,000 in the bank. Bob Doyle, Rock's Washington consultant, told HPR that Rock will show between \$110,000 and \$115,000 on hand when he files his campaign finance records for the quarter ending June 30. The filings were due July 15. Pence has raised \$554,000 for the cycle; Rock has raised approximately \$250,000. Frazier was quoted in the *Muncie Star Press* (July 7) as saying that he had a couple hundred dollars in voluntary contributions. But Frazier, a Muncie businessman and farmer, is expected to largely finance his own campaign. In an interview with the *Star Press*, Pence touted his broad base of support. Doyle was upbeat about Rock's efforts. "We couldn't be happier. We wanted to get past the \$100,000 cash on hand, and we did that with room to spare," Doyle said. Doyle also circulated an analysis by Mark Gersh of the National Committee for an Effective Congress. Gersh cited the presence of Frazier, a former Republican who may take

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small drainage basin. Lack of a melting snowpack over the last three years has had the greatest effect on lake level. The levels of Lakes Michigan and Huron are 19 inches below average. The low level could affect industries that depend on freighters arriving at Indiana's International Port. They could be faced with higher transportation costs because of shallow water.

LIBERTARIANS PICK UP OFFICE HOLDER: Newton County Surveyor Charles W. Lone has renounced his membership in the Democratic Party and will join the Indiana Libertarians. Indiana now has seven Libertarian office holders.

FIRST PETERSON INITIATIVE PASSES: Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson's first major initiative - labeling violent video games in public places - passed last week by the Indianapolis City-County Council. "Tonight's vote marks an important victory in the fight to empower parents and safeguard our children from the gratuitous sex and violence found in video games," Mayor Peterson said. "I am grateful to the Council for its support of this measure, and extend sincere thanks to the numerous parents and community organizations whose efforts helped make this possible." The new city ordinance requires businesses to label

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coin-operated games featuring graphic violence or strong sexual content and prohibits children under 18 from playing them without parental consent. It also fines violating businesses \$200 per day per violation. A business with three violations in a year is forbidden to offer such games and could have its amusement location license revoked.

INDEPENDENT FOR GOVERNOR: Terry Boesch, a Valparaiso attorney, wants to run for governor as an independent, but first he'll have to get 30,716 signatures of registered voters to get on the ballot (The Associated Press). By late June he had about 15,000. He needs the total number filed in the secretary of state's office by Aug. 1. The last time an independent was elected governor of Indiana was in 1825. Boesch, 35, calls himself a visionary on a mission to improve Indiana. He is a political novice.

HATCHER PUSHING FOR HALL OF FAME: Longtime Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher is still pushing for funding for a National Civil Rights Museum and Hall of Fame in Gary (Steve Patterson, Gary Post-Tribune). One of the reasons the money hasn't materialized is because Hatcher refuses to answer questions about his plan's financing.



votes away from Pence and enable Rock to win if Rock achieves a plurality with his Democratic base. "Against less formidable opposition than McIntosh, Democrat Bob Rock could win in 2000 by winning the support of no more than 5 percent of the voters who have supported McIntosh." U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy campaigned with Rock on Saturday in Indianapolis and French Lick. The *Rothenberg Political Report* noted, "An independent bid by frequent congressional candidate Bill Frazier has Democrats thinking upset. That's probably not likely, but a three-way fight is worth a look now and then. The Republican is favored." **Status:** *Leans Pence.*

Congressional District 3: Republican: Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer. **Geography:** South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Roemer 72,497, Burkett 58,787. **1996 Results:** Roemer 114,381, Zakas (R) 80,748, Taylor (L) 2,331. **1998 Results:** Roemer 84,625, Holtz 61,041. **2000 Forecast:** Chocola announced his campaign has raised nearly \$425,000 and has \$213,665 cash on hand. "This is more than any other challenger to Roemer has been able to raise during their entire campaign," Chocola said. "Raising this much money means that we will be able to get our message out to voters across the Third District." Chocola has been running a TV ad campaign. The *Rothenberg Political Report* wrote, "GOP insiders still like challenger Chocola, but he has a lot to prove against incumbent Tim Roemer. The district is competitive. Likely Roemer." Roemer and Chocola couldn't agree on what a PAC is (Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*). The accepted definition is "political action committee." Chocola defines PACs as vehicles for providing special interest money to influence congressmen. He has challenged Roemer to pledge that he would not accept more than 50 percent of campaign funds from PACs. Roemer declined. He says PAC could stand for "people action committees" that collect small sums from individuals and combine them so they can have a voice for balance against other special interests and the wealthy. **Status:** *Leans Roemer.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Dr. Paul Perry. **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:** Perry raised more than \$294,000 in the quarter ending June 30, according to his campaign finance report. Perry has \$217,000 cash on hand. He has raised nearly \$1 million for the cycle. "I am humbled by the amount of support people have shown to me in my campaign to change health care," Perry said. "While we had an outpouring of support from physicians, we had people from all walks of life who are affected by problems in the health care industry." Perry poured \$300,000 of his own money into his primary campaign and has indicated he is willing to use personal funds in the general. The Hostettler campaign has not released a statement about its quarterly filing, which was due to the FEC on July 15 but hasn't been posted publicly. As of mid-April, Hostettler had \$243,000 cash on hand. "We have reached our goal for this report," Jim Banks, Hostettler campaign press secretary, told HPR on Friday. "Raising money is not what this campaign is about. This is about our grassroots effort, which doesn't have anything to do with money. It's about people." The *Rothenberg Political Report* observed, "We now regard this race very much as a top tier Democratic opportunity." And Rothenberg noted, "GOP insiders familiar with the race are extremely worried about Hostettler's refusal to run a state-of-the-art campaign. The Republican doesn't like to raise money, but he'll have to against the wealthy Democrat." **Status:** *Tossup.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: Michael Bailey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Geography:** Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, Connersville, New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459 (D), Leising (R) 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton (D) 128,885, Leising (R) 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Results:** Hill (D) 92,477, Leising (R) 87,278, Feeney (L) 2,397. **2000 Forecast:** After spending June circulating a 23-page "Victory Plan" to local, state and national Republicans, 9th CD nominee Michael Bailey has secured the endorsement of the Teamsters, according to the syndicated radio show "Indiana Politics with Michael Gilliland," who broadcasts out of Richmond. Gilliland reported that more labor endorsements for Bailey are expected. Bailey has hired a consultant and pollster with ties to House Speaker Dennis Hastert and is seeking to raise \$150,000 by the end of the summer in order to attract the help of the NRCC, which at this point has written the seat off. **Status:** *Safe Hill.*

- By Brian A. Howey ❖