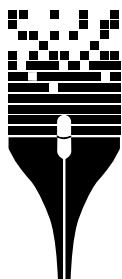


The Howey Political Report



The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink Inc. Founded in 1994, The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana.

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Subscriptions: \$250 annually via e-mail or fax; \$450 annually including the HPR Daily Wire. Call 317-254-1533 or 254-0535.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“It has been unfortunately the habit of Americans following a war to forget those who are left behind and turn inward ... but we have a wider mission....”

- U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar

Indiana a different place since Sept. 11

Fear meets resolve in the Heartland

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**, in Indianapolis

One month since terror returned to the United States, Indiana and the nation are very different places.

Walking through a Wal-Mart parking lot on the north side of Indianapolis last week, I saw that every other car in the lot had some sort of American flag displayed.

This afternoon, Gov. Frank O’Bannon and Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan will have a press conference announcing counter-terrorism measures and the press will have to show their credentials, something that usually happens only when a national figure passes through.

At the behest of the FBI, police departments across the state were asked to be on “heightened alert,” though several Indiana police had never heard that term before and didn’t know exactly what it meant. Indiana State Police troopers are on standby with off-duty officers required to post phone numbers where they could be reached. At President Bush’s request, uniformed Indiana National Guard troops are now patrolling airports in Indianapolis, Gary, South Bend, Fort Wayne and Evansville. Airport managers at Fort Wayne and Evansville reported air travel down and were planning to advertise to boost consumer confidence.

Throughout Indiana, there are signs that people who were stunned and recoiled from the attacks are now taking stock of our readiness. Water departments in Northwest Indiana have beefed up security. The Bloomington Hospital is in the process of developing a bioterrorism preparedness plan and its chief clinical microbiologist was quoted as saying few hospitals or clinics “have workable bioterrorism preparedness plans totally in place” (*Bloomington Herald-*

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BUSH POPULARITY AT HISTORIC HIGH: An ABC News/Washington Post Poll shows President Bush's approval rating at 92 percent, the highest for any president ever.

BUSH PRESS CONFERENCE TONIGHT: President Bush is expected to hold a nationally televised press conference at 7 p.m. today (Indiana time).

SHOOT DOWN ORDERS ISSUED FOR NEWPORT: Federal aviation officials have authorized the military to shoot down any aircraft that violates restricted air space over the chemical-weapons depot in Newport. The order, issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, gives the military authority to use deadly force to defend air space near the Newport Chemical Depot, FAA spokeswoman Elizabeth I. Cory told the Tribune-Star of Terre Haute for a story published Wednesday. Air-traffic controllers will advise pilots to steer clear of the chemical depot. If a pilot ignores the warning, military officials would be alerted, Cory said. The restricted air space was approved at the request of U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., to lessen the risk of an attack by terrorists on the metal building housing 1,200 tons of VX, a deadly

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Terror, from page 1

Times).

Lake and Porter counties have begun reviewing plans in case the region's steel mills are attacked. City officials in Muncie were doing the same, with Keith Roysdon of the *Muncie Star Press* reporting, "Local officials involved in emergency preparedness said it was unlikely Muncie would be ground zero in a renewed attack on U.S. soil."

It conjured recollections of Cold War era conversations when Hoosiers wondered if their communities were Soviet ICBM targets. "Up until Sept. 11, terrorism in people's minds was considered someone else's problem," said Alden Taylor, Indiana's SEMA director. "Now it's evident that it does happen here. It's things we've been talking about for years. Now people are paying attention" (*Associated Press*).

Describing the likelihood of a biological attack on the United States homeland as "remote," U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar urged Hoosiers to go about their business. "Please go to work. Please go to school,"

the Republican senator told nearly 100 women attending his Lugar Series in Public Excellence in Indianapolis on Monday.

At the same time, U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh wrote President Bush urging him to accelerate plans to destroy 1,200 tons of VX gas stored at the Newport Chemical Depot in Vermillion County. "The Newport facility is approximately 30 miles from Terre Haute, and 70 miles from Indianapolis and Lafayette. A VX plume in any direction would be catastrophic," Bayh wrote Bush. And Bayh along with five other former governors serving in the U.S. Senate pressed for \$5 million for each state to develop bioterrorism response at the state level.

Rumors were rampant among the public that terror cells were operating here along with notions that bin Laden intended to take his jihad to the American heartland. Hoosiers have seen the warnings that more attacks were "imminent."

The political impact of all of this is unknown, perhaps unimaginable at this point. Our collective future is murky, pulled by fear and resolve. ❖

Clark calls for tax restructuring

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - State Sen.

Murray Clark, a probable 2004 gubernatorial candidate, today made a call for tax restructuring to proceed.

"Tax restructuring is long overdue," Clark said in a statement this morning. "It is time to address the tax structure not because of reassessment or because of lower state revenues, but because we can and must do more to stimulate economic development in Indiana."

Clark becomes the first Republican heavyweight to call for restructuring with Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan expected to release his plan next week. Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Larry Borst have both said restructuring should wait until 2003. Clark and Kernan both will appear at the *HPR Forum Series* on Nov. 6.

"**We are told that** sometime in the next couple of weeks, the O'Bannon-Kernan administration will be releasing a plan to address these three critical problems," Clark said. "I must admit that my initial reaction is to be somewhat skeptical of such a plan. I have been a critic of the administration in the past for what I believe to be a lack of vision and initiative. However, I am hopeful that somehow this effort will be different – that the Governor will offer serious, comprehensive and well-reasoned solutions (not more political rhetoric) to each of our fiscal challenges. If that is the case, then I am one Republican who will roll up."

Last week, House Speaker John Gregg said he and Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer will join Kernan when he announces his tax restructuring plan.

"I think you're going to see Joe Kernan come out with a good plan; a good starting point," Gregg told *HPR* last Thursday afternoon. "I most certainly will be there. Pat will be there. There may be

some other members there."

Gregg said of the developing Kernan plan, "He's meeting with all kinds of people. It shows his desire to do it the right way. Everything is on the table. There are no holds barred. Nobody will be able to say this is sacred or that is sacred. It's a Herculean task, but Joe Kernan is the Hercules."

Gregg said of last Wednesday's caucus of House Democrats, "The caucus is coming together. I think you'll find the caucus will support the plan, Working together. It was a good caucus. It's the first time as a group together since the session. We talked about the state's fiscal condition, the next session. We spent most of the time talking about the war. It's changed everything."

Other sources have told *HPR* at least a few House Democrats made the case that if they weren't going to do anything, they should get out. As one representative reportedly put it, "Why work so hard to keep the majority if we're not going to use it for anything?" Other representatives said on tax restructuring that they'd "rather get beaten for something they did than attempt to get re-elected by not doing anything."

As for Garton's thoughts that tax restructuring can wait until 2003, Gregg said, "This has got to be bipartisan, though some in both parties won't like it."

Garton, R-Columbus, said that while he hasn't been privy to Kernan's tax restructuring decision-making process, he expects the administration's plan to include an increase in the sales tax and possibly a graduated income tax, similar to the federal system (Terry Burns, *Times of Northwest Indiana*).

Garton speculated, the administration likely would call for the elimination of the business inventory tax and the removal of school and welfare costs from property tax bills." ❖

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nerve agent. Nearly 200 soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division have already been sent from Fort Campbell, Ky., to guard the site, which has been a storage facility for VX since 1968.

JUDGE BLOCKS MEDICAID CUTS: Drugstores and pharmacists won at least a temporary victory Tuesday when a judge issued a preliminary injunction blocking the state's efforts to cut their Medicaid reimbursements (Mike Smith, Associated Press). Marion Superior Court Judge Gary Miller said the administration of Gov. Frank O'Bannon violated rules and statutes in trying to implement the \$21 million in cuts, which were to take effect Sept. 28. He also said drugstores and pharmacists who sued the state presented credible evidence they would suffer irreparable harm, "including imminent business failure of at least two pharmacy plaintiffs, and serious health and life hazards" to Medicaid recipients they serve. The state Family and Social Services Administration argued it had authority to make the cuts immediately because Medicaid expenditures likely will exceed appropriations by tens of millions of dollars this year. "Clearly, the defendants could have chosen to follow the rules and statutes enacted to accom-

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plish what they wanted to do," the ruling said. "It is equally as clear to this court that they intentionally chose not to do so." The O'Bannon administration is trying to cut Medicaid by at least \$118 million over the next two years. Medicaid Director Melanie Bella said the state will appeal the decision.

LEGISLATORS USING FRANKED MAIL IN NEW DISTRICTS: Indiana lawmakers are using taxpayer money to send mail to voters they'll court in re-election bids next year -- some of whom they don't represent now (Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star*). Critics call the practice -- which is barred in the U.S. Congress -- an improper use of the public's money. This summer, members of the Indiana House and Senate began sending their constituent mailings to the residents of their new legislative districts, as opposed to their current ones. The new districts were drawn by the General Assembly this year, based on 2000 census data, as part of the once-a-decade reapportionment process. The mailings are being sent with the blessing of House Speaker John Gregg, D-Sandborn, and Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, R-Columbus. Gregg, who said the same policy was implemented after redistricting 10 years

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War changes political context

Fundraising resumes on the Hoosier hustings

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.

WASHINGTON - Although the mechanics of politics remain the same, the atmosphere on the hustings has changed in the midst of the war on terrorism.

Two of the most prolific fundraisers in Indiana during this election cycle -- incumbent Republican Rep. Steve Buyer, who is running in the new 4th CD, and Democratic candidate Jill Long Thompson in the new 2nd CD -- have resumed their quests for political cash. But the concerns of their supporters now reflect the Sept. 11 terrorist assaults in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Buyer indicated that two recent fundraisers in Lebanon and Lafayette have been successful. "By attendance, there is no difference (between now and prior to Sept. 11)," he said. "The subject matter during the Q&A is all about the war on terrorism and domestic threats. They wanted to talk to someone who's been out there and who has an inside perspective." Buyer raised \$273,000 during the first quarter.

Long Thompson, who accumulated \$100,000 by June 30, said her continuing fundraising success has been bolstered by a renewed interest in politics. "What I have detected in the last month is that the nation as a whole is looking at public responsibility, public service and elections in a much more serious way than it has in the last 10 years," she said.

Supporting campaigns "that people believe in is a higher priority right now. Voters are looking for more serious candidates and they're looking more seriously at candidates." Long Thompson has three fundraisers scheduled between now and Nov. 2, when former Sen. Birch Bayh will appear in the district on her behalf.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks,

polls show that the public is rallying around President Bush and Congress, a dynamic that bodes well for incumbents, if the sentiment endures. Both Buyer and Long Thompson emphasize their background as an asset in their campaigns.

"People are looking for someone with experience," said Long Thompson, a former representative in the 4th CD and a former official at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A Republican candidate in the new 2nd CD who has never held office said that the events of Sept. 11 have raised the stakes for next year. Although Bush enjoys stratospheric approval levels (92 percent in an *ABC News/Washington Post* poll released today), the administration has warned that the battle against terrorism will be protracted and terrorist attacks could

occur again in the United States. If casualties mount, public support may erode.

Chris Chocola, a Republican business executive running in the new 2nd, argues that it will be important for the GOP to maintain its majority in Congress. "President Bush is going to need the support he enjoys today for a long time. We have to adopt a lifestyle in the United States that we're not used to. When that happens, partisan politics may rear its head again."

Buyer, a veteran of the Gulf War whose influence in military policy has grown steadily over his five terms in Congress, said that the 2002 election is likely to focus on intangibles. "Sometimes campaigns get dominated by issues," he said. "This one is going to be about character, experience, credibility, dependability and integrity because the decisions we have to make are so vitally important. It's about liberties. It's about protecting

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WATCH

our freedoms."

It's too early to tell whether people will rally around incumbents, said Chris Sautter, a Washington Democratic campaign consultant who is working for Long Thompson. "It would not be prudent to apply that conventional wisdom to the election a year from now, especially if the economy continues to suffer. We're so far out (from the election), and we're in uncharted territory."

Rothenberg: Diverted attention

Stuart Rothenberg, publisher of the *Rothenberg Political Report* who will headline the *HPR Forum Series: One Year Out* on Nov. 6 in Indianapolis, observed, "The events of Sept. 11 obviously impact the 2002 race for the House. The only problem is that we don't know exactly how."

Rothenberg noted, "The terrorist attacks and resulting war on terrorism have taken attention away from domestic policy matters, such as health care, minimum wage, hate crimes, the President's faith-based initiative and prescription drugs. Instead, the Congress and the whole country are focused on national security issues. In addition, the country's new focus helps both the President and his party by distracting the country from the economic slowdown. The higher Bush's approval, the more likely the Republicans are to avoid a major mid-term defeat."

Rothenberg said the crisis "creates a political environment that is favorable to incumbents" and added, "Challengers need to draw contrasts, and that is difficult to do when traditional issues are overshadowed and patriotism causes voters to rally around existing leaders."

Buyer v. Kerns

In the spirit of the new camaraderie on Capitol Hill, Buyer was careful not to criticize his opposition in the race for the 4th CD GOP nomination. As a result of redistricting, Buyer will face Republican Rep. Brian Kerns (R-7th

CD) in a potentially divisive internecine clash. But Buyer is confident that his experience in the Gulf and on issues like Bosnia and Kosovo will be attractive to voters in the new district. "I bring a lot to the table, and the people in Indiana know that," he said.

In district appearances, Kerns has focused on his recent trip to Turkey, Russia and Central Asia, where he met with leaders of Afghanistan's anti-Taliban forces.

He also spoke about the campaign against terrorism this week to a group of students at Lafayette McCutcheon High School. Neither Kerns, who served as chief of staff to former Rep. Ed Pease before winning Pease's seat in 2000, nor his press secretary have responded to numerous *HPR* interview requests over the last several months.

Roemer Redux?

In the new 4th, two incumbents will clash for the GOP nomination. The new 2nd will presumably be an open seat. But recent speculation in the *South Bend Tribune* has centered on whether retiring Democratic Rep. Tim Roemer, the 3rd CD incumbent whose district includes most of the new 2nd, will decide to run again. Roemer has been in the middle of the campaign against terrorism as a member of the House Select Committee on Intelligence.

"He's gratified by what he's hearing from the folks back home, but he's not focused on his own political future," said Roemer spokesman Rusty Silverstein. "He's still focused on the job he was elected to do. He didn't want to create this story. It's taken on a life of its own."

Long Thompson doesn't believe that Roemer will change his mind on retiring. "If he were seriously rethinking his decision not to run, I would have heard from him, but I have not," she said. "So I don't think it's a serious consideration."



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ago, argued that this isn't taxpayer-financed campaigning. "It's a right-to-know issue," he said. Garton did not return repeated phone calls for comment.

1,200 TAKE PART IN RIGHT TO LIFE DEMONSTRATION IN LAKE COUNTY: About 1,200 people took part this year in the Highland Life Chain, about twice as many as last year, said Ron Manfred, president of Lake County Right to Life and an organizer of the event (Susan Erhler, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). Father of nine and grandfather of 26, Manfred said the Life Chain is helping change people's minds about abortion. The percentage of Americans who oppose legal abortion is now slightly more than half, Manfred said. "We're gradually, slowly, letting people know that we're killing our families," he said. In Muncie, many demonstrators said the turnout for the event was smaller than previous years and believed it had something to do with U.S. attacks on Afghanistan (Tara Hayden, *Muncie Star Press*).

WHITEHEAD ELECTED DELAWARE COUNTY GOP CHAIR: Delaware county Republicans elected a new chair, Kaye Whitehead. She ran against State Rep. Tiny Adams in 2000.

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GAS PRICES FALLING, MAY BE LESS THAN DOLLAR A GALLON: Gasoline prices throughout Greater Lafayette have dropped to levels not seen since earlier this spring, with the pump price for regular unleaded at some stations now at \$1.159 a gallon (Max Showalter, Lafayette Journal and Courier). Just before the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the national average price of gas stood at \$1.54 a gallon.

RECORD CORN HARVEST STARTS TO COME IN: The corn harvest looks good this year — in some places, better than last year's record average of 160 bushels per acre (Judy Davis, Evansville Courier & Press). "USDA is estimating corn at 153 bushels," said Chris Hurt, Purdue ag economist. "From talking to farmers in the southwest district, I can say the yields are better toward the river than farther north."

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN UNANIMOUSLY PASSED: The State Board of Education on Thursday unanimously approved a new school accountability plan that will eventually rank schools based on improvement on statewide tests (Mike Smith, Associated Press). The vote was no surprise, since the plan was endorsed by Gov.

Indiana 2002, 2004 Racing Form

Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, Randall Tobias, Paul Helmke, Eric Miller, George Witwer. **Democrat:** Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** Kenley and Miller have officially launched their campaigns, with Miller having Doc Bowen as his campaign chairman, which is a coup in credibility. Said Miller: "We're going to go ahead and run a campaign flat-out" (Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star*). Kenley said of his early start, "I'm pretty much unknown. It might be too soon for some people, but I've given it thought and consideration. I'm just not a fast talker. It will take longer for people to get a sense of me" (Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star*). **Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan** is still working on his long-awaited tax restructuring plan, which could be the decisive moment in developing his political future. But the real news this past week came out of the "Lilly connection." **Tobias** told

Schneider that he is still considering a run, but he would gladly step aside for Daniels. The powerful OMB director did not do a Gen. Sherman quote for the *Star*, and that prompted much speculation that **Daniels** might ponder a return to run. Our

HORSE RACE

take on this is that a Daniels run for governor is unlikely, though not totally out of the question. A number of people who would be expected to be in the Daniels sphere are trying to convince **Pat Kiely** to run. There are a number of powerful Republicans who don't see a natural governor in the current field. They see in Tobias a guy with a great resume if Indiana were to "hire" a CEO, but wonder how many corn dogs he'd be willing to consume on the county fair circuit; how many Lincoln Day chicken dinners he'd be willing to do - political skills essential to perform at that level. For the record, Daniels told HPR he hasn't changed his position on running for governor of Indiana since we talked last winter. Back then he said that if he were available, he would have been fired from OMB. "I really haven't changed my outlook in any way. I am totally swamped, and duty-bound, by my current assignment, and running for any office is the very last thing on my mind," Daniels said. "Beyond that, doing my job properly requires a daily willingness to disappoint or even anger people, and I just can't allow any external calculation ever to creep into my thinking." Having said that, **Daniels** hasn't ruled anything out and a lot can happen over the next two years. Let's get into the theoretical and say Daniels will come back to rescue the GOP. There would be extraordinary pressure across a broad spectrum of the GOP (including the critical financiers) to clear the decks. None of the rest of the field could even come close to his broad array of skills - intellect, management, political portfolio, press relations, debate skills (watch how he does on one of the Sunday morning talk shows in the near future) and personality. We've heard several key Republicans say that Daniels could easily raise \$20 million. There would be some significant built-in loyalties, particularly from the Lugar organization. Right now, Daniels is the one guy who could immediately instill the notion of "this guy looks like a governor," something which Kernan possesses, though his political portfolio could be tarnished by tax restructuring and the notion of "it's time for a change." Daniels for governor? In your Republican dreams. **Status: Leans D.**

Secretary of State 2002: Republican: Mike Delph, Deputy Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Richard Mourdock, Dr. John McGoff, Paul Helmke. **Democrat:** Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez. **Libertarian:** Paul Hager. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers (D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Results:** Gilroy 828,557, Little (D) 652,565, Dillon (L) 51,775. **2002 Forecast:** The City of Bloomington's bond rating recently was upgraded by three financial firms: Moody's upgraded the city from an A1 rating to an Aa3. Standard & Poor's rated the city at AA-, and Fitch issued a rating of AA. That's good news for Fernandez, who will be running on his record, as well as vision. **Status: Tossup.**

Congressional District 2: Republican: Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Jill Long Thompson, Mark Meissner, State Sen. William Alexa, Kathy Cekanski Farrand. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St.

Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **2000 Result:** Roemer (D) 107,076, Chocola (R) 98,367. **2002 Forecast:** In wake of the Sept. 11 attack and war on terrorism, U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer refuses to rule out a 7th term. Jack Colwell of the *South Bend Tribune* observed, "Until the changes thrust upon the nation on Sept. 11, nobody thought Tim Roemer would change his mind. Maybe he won't. But because the congressman now doesn't give a flat-out 'no' to the possibility of seeking another term, all kinds of questions arise. **Q.** Will Roemer run for a seventh term after all, even though he announced last January that he wouldn't? **A.** It may be that Roemer doesn't know for sure. Party leaders don't know. He hasn't closed the door to the possibility. He could do so at any time just by saying 'no.' He understands that. But the South Bend Democrat has left the door just a bit ajar, giving him the chance to rethink, if he wishes, his decision to leave Congress. **Q.** Does he sound like he's going to run? **A.** "I have not rethought or reflected on my decision," Roemer says. "I have not had five seconds of thought about my future since Sept. 11." That certainly isn't an announcement of candidacy. Yet, in declining when asked to give a final 'no,' Roemer keeps the option open -- at least the option to rethink the options. **Q.** Would Roemer win if he ran? **A.** Yes. Big. IF the election were coming up this November. **Q.** How come? Didn't he just barely beat Republican Chris Chocola last time? And isn't Chocola going to run again? **A.** Chocola almost certainly will be the Republican nominee in the new 2nd District -- a district that includes most of Roemer's present 3rd District. But everything changed on Sept. 11. It's not just President Bush who has moved up in the polls from shaky to invincible politically as of today. Congress, so together now, not torn by petty partisanship that rankled voters in the past, is way up in esteem, too. **Status:** *Leans JLT.*

Congressional District 4: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns, State Sen. Mike Young. **Democrat:** Open. **Geography:** Tippecanoe, Clinton, Boone, Montgomery, Hendricks, Morgan, Lawrence and parts of Marion, Johnson, Monroe, Fountain and White counties. **Media Market:** Lafayette, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Evansville, Louisville. **2000 Results:** **Old 5th CD:** Buyer (R) 132,035, Goodnight (D) 81,423; **Old 7th CD:** Kerns 131,562, Graf (D) 65,174. **2002 Forecast:** Kerns tries his hand at international relations, meeting with anti-Taliban forces in Turkey and Russia. Kerns was one of a 12-member Congressional delegation making the trip. Steve Boyce has left the Indiana treasurer's office to head Buyer's campaign. Boyce served as campaign manager on State Rep. Mike Herndon's 2000 campaign. **Status:** *LEANS BUYER.*

Congressional District 6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Melina Ann Fox. **Geography:** Anderson, Muncie, Richmond; Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin, and parts of Bartholomew, Shelby, Johnson and Allen counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Cincinnati. **2000 results:** Pence (R) 106,023, Rock (D) 80,885, Frazier (I) 19,07. **2002 Forecast:** Pence is appointed to the House Judiciary Committee. Fox is a classic example of how the 911 national emergency has put a crimp on a challenging campaign. The terrorist attacks scuttled two big fundraisers that week that were planned to pump up her fundraising numbers. In the spirit of bipartisanship, she has suspended most public activities in her campaign. In contrast, Pence has garnered considerable attention both nationally and in his new district, holding "security briefings" and town hall meetings last week in Anderson and Muncie. As President Bush's job approval rating has hit the stratosphere, so too have Congressional incumbents. The question now is, does Pence have a lock on a second term? The answer is, it's way, way too early to determine how he and Bush will fare a year from now. If bin Laden and his key lieutenants are captured or killed, the U.S. military roots out terrorist cells and sponsoring states with tolerable loss of life levels, and the American homeland becomes secure, then Pence will be a heavy favorite next fall. If American military objectives aren't clearly achieved, there is heavy loss of life, and we sustain more attacks on the homeland, the national climate could be completely different a year from now, as President Carter and Democrats learned from their 1979-80 experience in Iran. That's not something Fox or any challenger wants, but it is a political reality. **Status:** *Leans R.* ❖

- Brian A. Howey

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Frank O'Bannon, Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed. It also won support from influential business and education groups that played a key role in crafting a compromise. "It took a lot of behind-the-scenes negotiations because of the recognition that we needed both business and education leadership to support the accountability plan if it were to be successful," Higher Education Commissioner Stan Jones said.

STEELWORKERS RALLY; O'BANNON TO TESTIFY AT VICLOSKY STEEL HEARING: Undaunted by an unrelenting downpour, an army of steelworkers flexed its muscle Thursday snarling traffic along U.S. 30 at the height of the afternoon rush as the workers rallied to save an industry in peril (Times of Northwest Indiana). For more than a mile on either side of the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, traffic along the congested U.S. 30 corridor stopped, stalled by the parade of management and labor as well as steel supporters who marched from the Century Mall property to the Radisson. Gov. Frank O'Bannon will testified last week at the U.S. International Trade Commission field hearing in Northwest Indiana to appeal for help for the state's struggling steel industry. Members of the commission will hear directly

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from O'Bannon and others in Indiana directly affected by the influx of foreign imports in the U.S. steel market. U.S. Rep. Peter Visclosky will conduct the hearing. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana also is expected to testify.

MacINTYRE TO JOIN PHOENIX GROUP: Indianapolis Star editorial writer and columnist Larry MacIntyre will join the Phoenix Group. "I've decided to leave the newspaper business and take a plunge into the world of politics," MacIntyre wrote in his weekly column last week - his last. "I'm joining the Phoenix Group, a recently formed organization here that will conduct political and public opinion research for Republican candidates in upcoming local and state races. I'll be the executive director of the organization, and my goal is to give Republican candidates some campaign tools and resources they've never had before."

ALLEN COUNTY DEMS ELECT MILLER: Roger Miller was elected unanimously last Saturday by Allen County Democrats to replace Brian Stier as county chairman (Karen Balsley, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Miller, 56, defeated David Roach. Stier, 42, resigned Saturday after six years as county chair.

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Bob Greene, *Chicago Tribune* - You ask yourself what someone would think. The person you have in mind is one who - somehow -- had no idea of what had happened to the United States on Sept. 11. Someone who found himself in the middle of our nation -- sort of a Rip Van Winkle in a rented car -- driving across the highways, unaware of the events of that Tuesday. At Rhoades Sales and Leasing, by the side of the road, the sign does not advertise the prices of the autos on display. It says, instead: "Pray for Our Nation's Leaders." Near the entrance to the Indiana Toll Road ("Main Street of the Midwest"), there is a notification to drivers: "God Bless America. United We Stand." The Resurrection Lutheran Church lets every passerby know: "Our Prayers Are With the Nation." You ask yourself what someone would think. That our country had found its truest self? Or that something had gone terribly wrong while the person was away -- something had gone terribly wrong, and this was the response? The answer, most likely, is both. Something went terribly wrong -- and we found out some basic truths about ourselves. At least that was the best conclusion I could draw as I spent the better part of two days on the road in the heart of America -- Illinois, Indiana, Ohio -- and tried to pay close attention to what was around me. ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - Big difference: This was no surprise attack. Nor was it aimed at the innocent. Those were the oft-cited contentions in statements Sunday by members of Congress in their virtually unanimous support of the strikes in Afghanistan ordered by President Bush in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in this country. Both U.S. senators from Indiana, Democrat Evan Bayh and Republican Richard G. Lugar, joined in the bipartisan backing.

"From the moment the terrorists attacked the United States and killed thousands of innocent civilians, this day was inevitable," Bayh said. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - Rep. Steve Buyer was saying this: "The horrible attacks of Sept. 11 have focused the nation's attention on the need to shore up our national security. While doing so, it is important to remember that America's food supply is a vital national security." Sen. Richard Lugar was saying this: "I'm tired of everyone saying an army marches on its stomach to imply we need a farm bill to feed our troops. We are producing so much, it's coming up out of our ears. We need to export a substantial portion of our production just to be profitable." Rep. Mark Souder: "You can't really make a living on the target prices and the emergency funding." Lugar: "Farm income this year will be \$61 billion - an all-time high." Rep. Mike Pence: The \$167 billion farm bill passed by the House on Friday "provides timely assistance to those suffering economic hardship." Lugar: It's "irresponsible." How can people of the same political party (Republican), representing the same geographic area (farm-rich Indiana) and avowing the same fiscal approach (conservative) be at such odds over a major piece of legislation aimed at farmers? On top of that, how can an entire state delegation of Republicans (save Rep. Dan Burton, who was absent) vote for a bill the White House has roundly criticized? Answer to all: Next year is an election year for House members. Lugar's term doesn't end until 2006, and President Bush is in office till 2004. Beyond that, the trade and industrial interests in Indiana will more than balance out any annoyance farmers have for Lugar over his opposition to the House bill. ❖