

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“The bill is in good shape. I expect it to pass. It’s going to be a bipartisan effort...”

- Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst,
Wednesday night to the Louisville Courier-Journal
on HB 1004

12 Indiana House seats are in play

‘Battle for the House’ begins soon

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

It’s the biennial “Battle of the House” and in 2002 it will be played out in about a dozen districts in places such as Lafayette, Shelbyville, Bedford, Elkhart, Anderson, Richmond and Indianapolis.

Currently, Indiana Democrats hold a 53-47 lead. After the 2001 redistricting, the prevailing thought was that Democrats would be hard-pressed to hold on to that lead. Of the seats in play, eight are open. For the Democrats, that includes Rep. Gary Cook’s HD17, Dick Bodiker’s HD56, Mike Dvorak’s HD8 and John Gregg’s HD 45, which is worth watching, but probably not in play. Republican open seats in play include Rep. Dean Mock’s HD 48, Brent Steele’s HD65, Mike Herndon’s HD 57, and Jack Lutz’s HD 36.

There are several incumbents -- Republican Reps. Jim Atterholt’s HD86 and Sue Scholer’s HD 26; and Democrats Dale Sturtz’s HD 52 and Bob Kuzman’s HD19 -- that could be in play next fall.

While both Republican and Democrats are going over their filings and surveying the talent in the newly drawn districts, here is the first comprehensive analysis of where the Battle for the House is likely to be fought.

HD 8: Rep. Mike Dvorak is running for St. Joseph County prosecutor after holding the seat since 1986. His son, Ryan M. Dvorak, a South Bend attorney, will be the Democratic nominee. Former St. Joseph County Republican Chairman Carl Baxmeyer of South Bend will face young South Bend attorney James Ehrhard. This is a 53 percent Democratic district and Ryan Dvorak will benefit by running

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GREGG SAYS HE'S SPEAKER UNTIL AFTER ELECTION: House Speaker John Gregg doused speculation that a new House Democratic caucus head will be chosen before the November election. "The Democratic majority in the House will nominate the new speaker on Thursday or Friday after the election in November and he/she will be sworn in on Organization Day," Gregg told HPR. There was some speculation that a new caucus leader could be chosen this spring.

O'BANNON LAUDS SENATE: Gov. Frank O'Bannon reacted to the Senate's action on HB 1004 on Wednesday leading up to what is expected to be a historic vote tonight. "Today's action in the Senate represented another very important step on the long road to resolving the two fiscal problems Indiana faces," O'Bannon said. "I was encouraged to see participation by both Democrats and Republicans in the amendment process in which many thoughtful amendments were offered. I look forward to bipartisan support for House Bill 1004 on final passage tomorrow. I want to single out Sen. Larry Borst for his hard work on the bill and on his amendment offered today. That suggests he is

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with a familiar name. This district is a bellwether for a big GOP year. If HD8 is in play next October, it will shape up as a big Republican tidal wave.

HD 17: Rep. Gary Cook gives up this seat after holding it since 1990 to run for mayor of Plymouth. This is a district that Democrat attorney general candidate Karen Freeman-Wilson won with 51 percent. The recruited caucus Democrat is Culver Town Board member Ralph Winters. Winters faces primary opposition from Mark J. Gidley and Ernest Rowe, both of Plymouth. Republicans are former Secret Service employee Kevin Foley, Culver; Tim Harman, Argos; Steven Heim, Culver; and T.J. Leavell, Plymouth. This is a seat that Republicans will challenge.

HD 19: Democrat Robert Kuzman, Crown Point, faces minor primary opposition from John Malan, Lowell. Kuzman is expected to face Republican William Cathey of Crown Point. Freeman-Wilson polled 50 percent in the old district and the new district is competitive, though Kuzman will be tough to beat and probably won't be unless there's a big GOP tidal wave.

HD26: State Rep. Sue Scholer is

expected to get a spirited challenge from Democrat Joe Micon, who heads the Lafayette Urban Ministries. Micon is expected to raise good money, and has media name ID, along with a good grassroots network. Scholer has served in the House since 1990, won in 2000 by 9,086 to 5,186 and is well respected. This is a Democratic target.

HD 36: Democrats believe Terri Jo Austin of Anderson, who narrowly lost to Rep. Jack Lutz in 2000 by 12,397 to 11,487, can capture this seat. The district is now considered to be a 50/50 district and will be in play. Republican contenders are Brenda Jackson of Alexandria; and Andy Kincaid, Anderson.

HD 45: House Speaker John Gregg is vacating this seat and it's hard to imagine Gregg letting this seat go Republican. Democrat contenders are farmer Alan Chowning, who serves on the Sullivan County Economic Development Board, and farmer and Bicknell Town Board member Wally Cullen. Republican Bruce Borders, the mayor of Jasonville and a renowned Elvis Presley impersonator, faces Baron Brocksmith, Vincennes; and Carter Phegley of Carlisle.

HD 48: Republican Rep. Dean

Mock is retiring, and the man who defeated him in 1986 and served one term is engineer Bruce Carter, an Elkhart Democrat. While the district is 55 percent Republican, Carter has decent name ID. A Republican primary is shaping up between Elkhart City Councilman Tim Neese and former *Elkhart Truth* columnist Kyle Hannon. Neese would be the early favorite in both races, but don't discount Hannon's name ID and Carter's former tenure. If this seat is in play next October, it may be shaping up as a Democratic year.

HD 52: Democratic Rep. Dale Sturtz is a perennial target. He defeated Ken Wonderly 9,536 to 7,825 in 2000. Republicans were hoping that a Sturtz vote in favor of tax restructuring would soften him up, but he voted nay. Possible challengers are Les Alligood of Rome City, Trisha Gensic of Kendallville, and Marlin Stutzman of Howe.

HD 56: This seat is being vacated by Rep. Dick Bodiker, whose personal popularity allowed him to weather the 1994 Republican tsunami. Democrat teacher Donnie Hamilton of New Castle would be favored in a primary against David Brock of Centerville, and Phillip Pflum of Milton. Hamilton ran in HD 54 in 1998, losing to Rep. Tom Saunders. Hamilton is expected to face Republican Richard Hamm of Richmond, who almost knocked Bodiker off in 1994. Hamm will stress his roots in Wayne County, the district's population center. It was bolstered by a Democrat with a gerrymandered move to include downtown New Castle in the district. Freeman-Wilson carried this new district with 54 percent in 2000.

HD 57: State Rep. Mike Herndon is retiring to run for sheriff of Shelby County. He won a vigorous 2000 battle over J.D. Lux, 10,903 to 9,745. The Democratic nominee will be Indiana State Police trooper John Wheeler of Waldron. He is expected to face Shelbyville City Council President Roland Stine, a teacher, who will have to fend off from unknown

Jay Carlin of Columbus in primary. Gov. O'Bannon carried this district with 55 percent of the vote in 2000.

HD 65: Democrat David Rhum, Bedford, is the Lawrence County chairman who lost to Rep. Brent Steele, 15,335 to 7,096. Rhum will be a Democratic priority. A crowded GOP primary includes Dale Cassidy of Nashville; Darin Kinser of Heltonville; Eric Allan Koch of Bedford; Michael Patton of Bedford; Jay Walton of Bedford. The early GOP primary edge may go to Koch, who once ran for attorney general. None of the Republicans commands the family name ID that Steele does. This district was in play back in 1994 and 1996 and is seen as competitive.

HD 86: Rep. Jim Atterholt found himself in a revamped 50/50 district. The Democrat caucus has recruited David Orentlicher, an Indianapolis doctor and attorney, with both degrees from Harvard. He teaches medical ethics at IUPUI. Atterholt was appointed to this seat when John Keeler resigned, and won it by about 5,000 votes in 2000. IPresident Bush carried the new district with 51 percent and Gov. O'Bannon won it with 60 percent in 2000. It is seen as a decisive battleground seat for control of the House.

House Speaker John Gregg said he plans to work tirelessly to elect a new Democratic majority. "My term doesn't end until Election Day and I'm in this for the long haul," Gregg told HPR. "I will do everything possible to help and direct the Democrats to victory in November. I intend to attend fundraisers, host fundraisers for the caucus and members, organize fundraisers; I intend to work with the challengers, visit their districts like I always have and the same for our incumbents."

Gregg added, "We've got no real serious challengers to our incumbents and we'll be able to hold all our open seats. We'd have to lose five seats and the secretary of state to lose control of the House. It's not going to happen." ❖

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open to compromise - and that's what it will take for HB 1004 to become law. And I also want to recognize the efforts of the Senate Democrats for their leadership on tax restructuring and for their recognition of the state's budget problems."

GARTON TO VOTE AGAINST HB 1004: Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton, R-Columbus, said Wednesday he plans to vote against HB 1004 because he believes lawmakers can wait until next year, when the full impact of reassessment is known, to address the problem (Terry Burns, Times of Northwest Indiana). Garton conceded, however, that the controversial measure probably will receive enough support to clear the Senate since enough Democrats and Republicans apparently want the measure to remain alive.

INDIANA PERSONAL INCOME HAS WORST DECLINE IN NATION: Indiana has achieved a dubious economic distinction, according to a TAXrecently released report by a nonpartisan fiscal think tank: When it comes to personal income, Indiana lost more ground relative to the rest of the nation than any other state during the last 35 years of the 20th century

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(Norm Heikens, Indianapolis Star). In 1965, Indiana was 17th in the nation in per capita income, at \$2,856; by 2000, the state had fallen to 33rd, at \$26,838, according to an Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute study. In other words, the state plummeted more or less from the top third to the bottom third in 35 years. "This is not a small problem," said institute president and study author Bill Sheldrake. "The scoreboard really reflects where we are. We're a long way behind." The study, funded by the institute, parallels findings unveiled this month by Indiana University. That study said Indiana's share of the nation's personal income shrank to a record low of 1.97 percent in 2000. Fellow manufacturing powerhouses Illinois, Michigan and Ohio also dropped in rank but stayed in the top half, and Kentucky's rank rose from 45th to 40th. Had Indiana's personal income stayed in 17th place in 2000, the state would have collected nearly \$1.5 billion more in annual state and local taxes, the study said. Lawmakers are scrambling to fill a \$1.3 billion shortfall.

O'BANNON SAYS PLAN MUST DEAL WITH DEFICIT: Gov. Frank O'Bannon said at his weekly press conference on Friday that any tax-restructuring package must include revenue to help balance the current budget.

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Burton wants Bush to open up

INDIANAPOLIS - U.S. Rep. Dan Burton invited HPR's Brian Howey to sit in on an interview he conducted with Jackie Judd of ABC News last week. The topic was the Bush administration blocking access by Congress to FBI and presidential papers.

Jackie Judd: Tell me what kind of documents have you been seeking from the Bush administration and what kind of response have you received from them?

Burton: Well, we subpoenaed documents from the Justice Department that deal with a man named Salvatti who 30 some years ago was sent to prison for a murder he did not commit and the FBI and the Justice Department

knew he was innocent and it went all the way up to J. Edgar Hoover. The whole apparatus knew this man was innocent. What I've done is subpoena documents relating to that because we had rogue FBI agents putting innocent people in jail to protect Mafia informants. My biggest fear is there may be other innocent people in jail or maybe people even died in jail who were innocent because of these rogue FBI agents. We want to get that whole mess cleaned up. The President has claimed executive privilege, which in effect is blocking us from getting those documents. He said it was in the national interest for us not to get those and I can't for the life of me figure out why.

Judd: Have you tried to push that and get the administration to relent?

Burton: Oh, have I ever. I've had the Justice Department before my committee I think two or three times now. I contacted and talked with Mr. Gonzalez, chief counsel to the president. I've met with Attorney General Ashcroft and his chief lieutenants over at the Justice Department.

I think all presidents don't like the thought of Congress looking over their shoulder. But that's one of our responsibilities. My committee is charged with ferreting out waste, fraud, abuse and illegal activity in the executive branch.

Judd: What is your view of how this administration views executive privilege and the whole idea of withholding documents, or secrecy, or whatever you want to call it?

Burton: I think they're going too far. I have very high regard for President Bush. I think he's doing a good job with the war and getting the economy moving again. But he's getting some very bad advice on executive privilege and the use of his executive power.

Judd: Is "stonewall" too strong a word to use in this administration because of its view of secrecy?

Burton: The term that I use is a little stronger than stonewalling. I said there is a veil of secrecy that is descending around the administration which I think is unseemly. It's just wrong. I feel so strongly about it that I've used that type of terminology.

Judd: Is there an irony here? You were such a thorn in the side of the Clinton administration and many critics viewed that as a Republican going after a Democrat. You're proving you're an equal opportunity bitch.

Burton: No. I think I have a death wish. I don't think I want anybody to like me. Let me be clear about that. If there is waste, abuse, fraud or illegal activity in the administration and if my committee has jurisdiction over it, which we do, then we're going to exercise our oversight responsibilities and let the chips fall where they may. That's our responsibility.

Howey: I watched the *60 Minutes* segment a couple weeks ago where you took this a little further and talked about taking J. Edgar Hoover's name off the

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FBI headquarters. What kind of reaction did that get?

Burton: It's not just the Salvatti case. There's another case in Rhode Island where there was a Mafia informant who evidently gave false information to the FBI and the FBI was protecting their informant and maybe getting payoffs too. We're checking that case as well. The thing I'm very concerned about, and I think this is maybe why they're keeping a lid on this, is that during the 1960s, when Hoover was faced with the Mafia as a growing problem in this country, he decided let's get a couple of Mafia informants and we'll give them carte blanche in order to get some of the bigwigs like this Patriarca in Boston. We'll protect him to get some of the bigger fish. But Joe "The Animal" Barboza -- the first guy in the witness protection program; they created it for him -- he killed people while he was in the program. My terrible gut feeling is they may have done this in Miami, in California, in New York, every place they had a major Mafia problem. If they were putting innocent people in jail and he knew about it, his name shouldn't be on anything.

Howey: We've seen Illinois Gov. Ryan institute a death penalty moratorium. Does this change your stance on the death penalty?

Burton: I think the death penalty should continue to be imposed when there is no doubt that they were the murderer. But we should still continue to go through the whole cycle of jurisprudence to make sure the right people are convicted and there's no doubt about their guilt. It does trouble me that maybe some people were put to death who were innocent.

Howey: You think the administration is on solid ground with Cheney, Enron and the GAO. But I'm hearing on the ground that people really are wondering about that.

Burton: It looks like they're trying to keep something from the public. I don't think they have anything to hide, but

that doubt is there. The Democrats are not going to let up on that. The war may wind down and people are going to start looking at the economy, unless there's another terrorist attack. If the Democrats keep beating on that drum, it could be a major factor in the election. I want there to be openness. President Bush senior, his popularity was about 90 percent after the Gulf War. He lost. This is three years from the next election. The president's popularity is sky high, but that could change in 30 days. I think they're building up a lot of good will, but could go down if the American people start to distrust him. I don't want that to happen.

HPR: This whole Salvatti case is kind of taking you out of a strictly partisan light.

Burton: When I was going after the Clinton administration, I really believe there was corruption there. I'm going after the FBI because I believe they put innocent people in jail. If this was Clinton, I'd do the same thing. If it were Bush back then, I would have done the same thing. I think people are starting to realize I'm doing what I believe is right. When Barney Frank starts saying he looks at me in a different light, then people realize that I really did think Clinton was a crook.

HPR: One of the persistent speculations in Indiana is how long will you want to serve in Congress.

Burton: I'm one of the senior members on International Relations. We have a new procedure now for picking a new chairman. They are elected by the caucus. Henry Hyde had told me he's going to run one more term and I would like to be considered for the chairmanship. I have some very strong feelings about foreign policy. I think I can have some real input with the administration.

HPR: How old are you now?

Burton: I'm 29. I don't know how long I'm going to stay in Congress. This is my 20th year. I don't have any plans to retire soon. I would like to get my golf handicap down to 4 or 5 again. ❖

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"I'd have to look to see if there's anything that's done on the budget, if there's any changes, but I wouldn't sign it unless the budget is taken care of," O'Bannon said during a Statehouse press conference. The governor has repeatedly warned lawmakers that he would be forced to cut funding for schools and universities if they do not raise taxes to close the budget gap. "These are problems that are inseparable," said House Ways and Means Committee Chairman B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend. "They both have to be addressed."

KENLEY TIRED OF O'BANNON'S 'GUN-TO-THE-HEAD' THREATS: Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, said Gov. O'Bannon's veto threats were only antagonizing Republican legislators by implying that they do not care about education. "It's the ultimate threat because all elected officials are sensitive to the needs of education," said Kenley, a top budget negotiator for Senate Republicans (Stedman, Louisville Courier-Journal). "That is a gun-to-the-head threat, and we are tired of him using that." Kenley said O'Bannon's repeated warnings were not making Republicans more willing to raise taxes specifically to shore up the deficit. If anything, they are jeopardizing

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potential GOP votes for restructuring, he said. "We don't think he has near the budget crisis he thinks he has, and we think that by his confusing the two issues he's killing the tax reforms needed to build the Indiana economy," Kenley said.

CLARK SAYS TAXBILL NEEDS TO KEEP MOVING: "There are a lot of people who are uncomfortable but really want to see the bill keep moving," said Sen. Murray Clark, R-Indianapolis (Louisville Courier-Journal). "I think there is a general consensus that we have to do something, but figuring out just what needs to be done is so hard."

SIMPSON SAYS KERNAN WILL BE 'PROUD' TO BREAK SENATE TIE: Tax restructuring began with Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan when he announced his plan last October. It may rest with his vote should there be a 25-25 tie in the Senate, a scenario long rumored to be in the making. HPR asked State Sen. Vi Simpson if she believed the Kernan scenario was in the works. "I suppose anything is possible," Simpson said. "If I were Lt. Gov. Kernan, I'd be proud to step forward and break the tie."

YOUNG CONFIDENT SENATE DEMOCRATS WILL MOVE BILL: Senate Minority

Indiana 2002 Racing Form

Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller. **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:** It's been almost torturous watching Clark and Kenley try to make sense out of The Legislative Session of the Century (or at least the first two years of it). The early line was that the two senators-turned-gubernatorial candidates would have to stand tall and show some leadership. Clark may have the edge there, trying to push his spending cap, to no avail thus far. Kenley's signature moment thus far has been to express fear in Chairman Borst's Forward Indiana plan. Let's face it, the tax restructuring/budget deficit deal is going to come down to Borst and Bauer, which is why HPR chose them as the most influential legislators back

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in January. It serves neither man to prolong this agonizing session past March 14, so both are likely to try to find reasonable middle ground in order to match the consensus of expectation. The fallout will have to be defended, endured or celebrated by Kernan, Clark and Kenley. **Status:** *Leans D.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: Chris Chocola, Lewis Hass. **Democrat:** Jill Long Thompson, Mark Meissner, State Sen. William Alexa, Kathy Cekanski Farrand, Steven Osborn. **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:** Alexa says he will pick up key labor endorsements during a March 1 campaign swing beginning in Kokomo and heading northward. The Senate Democrat Caucus is hosting a fundraiser for Alexa on March 6 at the Indy Press Club. There are four other fundraisers planned in other parts of the district in March and early April. House Majority Leader Dick Armey was in Mishawaka Saturday to raise campaign money for Chocola (Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*). The luncheon raised about \$50,000 for Chocola. In answer to a question, Armey said he couldn't remember either incumbent U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer or former Congresswoman Jill Long Thompson "having accomplished a whole lot in the years they were in office." The 2nd CD race has been portrayed nationally as one of a few "targeted" contests that could determine control of the House. **Primary Status:** *Leans JLT.*

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, Paul Helmke, William Larsen. **Democrat:** Jay Rigdon. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **2000 results:** Souder (R) 131,051, Foster (D) 74,492. **2002 Forecast:** Souder briefly argued Saturday with students who approached him outside the St. Francis College, protesting a drug policy he drafted (Liz Vivanco, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Souder, R-4th, appeared at a Sallie Mae Fund financial aid seminar and left Gunderson Auditorium quickly as Shawn Heller, national director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, stood up to ask him about the 1998 Higher Education Act. Heller and four other members from the group followed Souder outside, asking him about provisions in the act which can cut financial aid eligibility for 12 months for a first conviction of drug possession, two years for a second and indefinitely for a third conviction. "If you use drugs, you lose your loan," Souder said, stopping on his way to his car to talk to the students, who were from Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Ind. Heller, 22, said the law is flawed because it punishes students of poor and working class backgrounds. Souder told Heller and the other students that more than 400 members of Congress voted for the bill. An amendment regarding the drug policy is under way to help interpret the law, he said. "No one who's ever committed a drug crime in their life should be denied a loan," Souder said heatedly while holding his open hand close to Heller's face. Democrat Rodney Scott did not file for the Democratic primary. **Primary Status:** *Leans Souder.*

Congressional District 4: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns, State Sen. Mike Young, Thomas Herr, Tim Baynard, Bob Smith. **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:** No Democrat filed for this race. The addition of credible local candidates such as Herr of Lafayette and Smith in the Indianapolis area could splinter some of the vote, but we believe this race is Buyer's to lose. **Primary Status:** *Likely 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) 19,070. **2002 Forecast:** F." **Status:** *Leans Pence.*

Congressional District 7: Republican: Brose McVey, Jack Reynolds. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Bob Hidalgo. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** A Public Opinion Strategies poll (300 likely general election voters; Feb. 10-11, +/- 5.6 percent) conducted by the NRCC for McVey shows Carson leading 45-31. President Bush has an 84 percent approval rating. Carson has a name ID of 98 percent, but a fav/unfav of 55/39. POS observes, "That is one of the highest unfavorable scores we've seen for an incumbent over the last two election cycles." POS added, "If Brose is able to raise sufficient funds and take his message to the voters, there is no question that he can win this race. But, watch out for an extremely negative campaign waged by Carson. Sparks are going to fly in this campaign. Carson has pretty clearly worn out her welcome among many voters here, and Brose has the right kind of background to pick up the pieces." **Status:** *Leans Carson.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Bryan Hartke, Michael Graf. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **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 Results:** Hostettler 116,860, Perry (D) 100,461. **2002 Forecast:** Graf enters the Democratic primary, but Hartke will be heavily favored there. **Status:** *Likely Hostettler.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: Mike Sodrel, Jeff Ellington, Chris Redmon, David Fowler. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Geography:** Bloomington, Columbus, Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville; Spencer, DuBois, Orange, Crawford, Perry, Harrison, Washington, Jackson, Brown, Jennings, Scott, Floyd, Clark, Jefferson, Switzerland, Ripley, Ohio, and parts of Dearborn and Monroe counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Cincinnati. **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 Results:** Hill 125,978, Bailey (R) 101,790, Chambers (L) 4,634. **2002 Forecast:** The Republicans seeking his seat are Mike Sodrel of New Albany and Jeff Ellington, Chris Redmon and David Fowler of Bloomington. Only one of the four Republicans -- Ellington -- has previously ran for office. A firefighter and Monroe County councilman for five years unseated veteran state Rep. Jerry Bales in the GOP primary in 1998, but lost to Democrat Peggy Welch. Sodrel, whose family owns the Jeffersonville-based Sodrel Truck Lines and Free Enterprise System, is active in civic affairs in Southern Indiana. Fowler, a Monroe County native, is a General Electric employee and owner of the Fowler Christmas Tree Farm. Redmon is a pilot who served in the Navy. He trained young pilots during Operation Desert Storm.

Primary Status: *Leans Sodrel.* ❖

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Leader Richard Young, D-Milltown, said he's confident Democrats will provide enough votes to move the bill out of the Senate, just to get it to conference. "We're going to be there to do our job," he said (Louisville Courier-Journal). "Hopefully, in conference committee, they will be able to negotiate a number of these issues and come to some solutions."

INDIANA CITIES AND TOWNS FACE \$4.5 BILLION SEWER FIX: In 105 Indiana cities and towns, waste such as excrement, urine, condoms and toilet paper pours into waterways during wet weather. The sewage problem is so vast and so costly to fix that many communities have made little progress on repairs, despite the threat to human health and wildlife habitat, and a cleanup mandate by the federal government. The Associated Press found in a three-month review. Repairs and construction of new systems are expected to cost Indiana about \$4.5 billion.

STAR/13 POLL SHOWS 88 PERCENT FAVOR PUBLIC ACCESS: A new poll taken for the Indianapolis Star and WTHR-TV by SurveyUSA found that 88 percent of the 500 adults contacted statewide think all state legislative records should remain open for public

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T A P E

inspection. Six percent said lawmakers should be allowed to decide which records are public, and 4 percent said no records should be open. As much as the public opposes this legislation, though, that's how much lawmakers favor it. House Enrolled Act 1083 passed the Senate 45-4 and the House 71-28. "We need to do everything we can to keep that confidence," House Speaker Gregg said. "I don't want to do anything that people think we're trying to hide stuff. I really don't think we were. But if we get one person turned off of government, it's a big mistake." Rep. Chet Dobis, D-Merrillville, said he's heard nothing that would indicate feelings have changed.

REP. FRIEND ELECTED 5TH CD CHAIR: State Rep. Bill Friend, R-Macy, was elected to fill the remaining term of John Earnest over 5th District Secretary Angie Stone by a vote of 13-9 in Kokomo. Earnest resigned after losing to State Chairman Jim Kittle.

FORT WAYNE POLICE CHIEF EXPLAINS CRIME RATE: Fort Wayne Police Chief Rusty York defended the most recent batch of crime statistics to the City Council on Tuesday, saying that unpaid gasoline and stolen cell phones contributed greatly to the increase in last year's crime rate (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Mayor Graham

Campaign finance reform sails through DC

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.

WASHINGTON -- Developments over the past three weeks have left little doubt that Capitol Hill is engaged in campaign finance reform. The House passed a landmark bill 240-189 on Feb. 14 that would usher in significant changes to fundraising practices. Now the Senate is poised to approve the bill without a filibuster threat.

But outside the Beltway, questions remain about whether voters care about changing the political money process. "Never does this issue come up," said GOP Rep. Mike Pence, referring to district meetings. He said that people want to talk about the war on terrorism, homeland security, the economy and the farm bill. "It is a classic example of how out of step Washington is with the priorities and concerns of America."

Pence helped lead the opposition to the House campaign finance reform bill. But a Democratic source also said that there was almost no interest in campaign finance reform from voters attending events during last week's Presidents Day recess. When the Senate takes up the bill, which could be within a matter of weeks, Republican Sen. Richard Lugar and Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh will both support the House-passed version.

The House measure would ban unlimited "soft money" contributions from corporations and unions to political parties and limit it to state and local parties, increase the amount of money individuals can give to candidates, and restrict "issue ads" funded by non-Political Action Committees within 60 days of a general election and 30 days of a primary.

Although the fervent interest in campaign finance found in Washington is probably not reflected on the ground in Indiana, supporters say that political reform is salient. "Enron has put a whole different perspective on the political process," said Melina Fox, the Democratic challenger to Pence. "People understand the influence (of contributions). They are

really in tune to this." Enron donated more than \$1.7 million to Republican and Democratic candidates in the 2000 election cycle. Several House and Senate committees are investigating the scandal.

The issue may not come up unsolicited at town hall meetings, but it may help shape voter opinion. "It goes to the candidate's overall profile," said Chris Sautter, a Democratic consultant in Washington who is the media adviser to

CONGRESS WATCH

Jill Long Thompson is the new 2nd CD. "Pro-reform candi-

dates are always preferred to anti-reform candidates. But I don't think you're going to see too many ads on campaign finance reform."

His opponent may cast Pence as being anti-reform, but Pence contends that the bill the House passed undermines the Constitution with its restrictions on political advertising. Most analysts agree that that provision will be struck down in court. He also says that the soft-money ban is illusory. A company like Enron could give soft money to state and local campaign organizations around the country. "We're shoving soft money from Washington to 3,800 counties. It is most certainly not a ban on soft money."

But no matter where soft money ends up, it may not have much impact on House races. "Soft money has been primarily something that has influence on the presidential level, and somewhat on the Senate level," said Sautter. He foresees an increase in soft money donations to PACs and more PACs producing issue ads.

Fox said money isn't as important to a campaign as ground forces. "That's what counts in the end anyway," she said. "Maybe I'm an idealist. It still takes getting people to the polls. We've always had a good field operation."

According to the most recent FEC report, Pence has \$332,979 cash on hand; Fox has \$94,625. ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Garton's inconsistencies

Let's see.

I'm Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton and the National Weather Service issues a blizzard warning. Now, I'm gonna wait until the snow falls, the winds howl and the power goes out to locate my snow shovel, put gas in the snow blower, put chains on the tires, and dig out the oil lamps.

That essentially is the logic that Sen. Garton used in his letter to the editor saying that tax restructuring and deficit reduction should be put off until 2003.

Sen. Garton wrote in his letter, "The reassessment process has barely begun. While data-gathering is underway, few of Indiana's 92 counties have the information they need from the state to establish property values. When property values have been established, county officials will undertake the process of determining tax rates. Only when those rates are known will we have the facts on reassessment."

My question to the Senate President Pro Tempore is this: What difference does it make whether we get 2 feet of snow, or 1 foot, 11 inches? The fiscal experts are all predicting an economic blizzard for our state. I can't find a fiscal expert who says the legislature should put this off and back it up with facts.

On the Senate floor Wednesday afternoon, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Larry Borst told his colleagues, "I just received some information: I can take any taxing district in the state and tell you what it (new property taxes) is (under his restructuring plan). Up in Gary, it's (down) 19 percent. In many districts it's over 60 percent. In my own community -- Perry Township -- 26 percent."

So much for a lack of impact information.

But Garton's stupefying logic doesn't stop there. As he complains about being called on the "media carpet," he assails Gov. O'Bannon. "Restructuring taxes was the mantle of Frank O'Bannon's first run for governor in 1996," Garton wrote. "Now, in the sixth year of his eight-year tenure as governor, O'Bannon has awakened to the need for tax restructuring. No barrage of criticism has been leveled at the governor for dragging his feet on the issue year after year. Yet, seven weeks into this year's legislative session, I am called on the media carpet for stonewalling, lacking leadership, and worse."

Let's process this: Sen. Garton says that O'Bannon has dragged his feet (which I agree with and have extensively written about; tax restructuring could have happened in 1997, 1999 or 2001). But since Gov. O'Bannon did the wrong thing, now the Indiana Senate should follow the same course?.

Duh. Garton's argument reveals a total intellectual inconsistency.

Sen. Garton ends his letter by saying, "What is going on at the Statehouse amounts to mixing together the state budget 'crisis,' property reassessment and tax restructuring, and cooking the ingredients without the benefit of a recipe. It could leave a bitter taste in everyone's mouth."

Of course, if nothing happens, Indiana may lose another 25,000 manufacturing jobs over the next year. We may not land lucrative warehouses and high tech plants due to our industrial age tax structure. Indiana's share of the nation's personal income could fall even further.

Tell us, Sen. Garton, what kind of taste are we going to have in our mouths if you don't exhibit a modicum of leadership?

My best guess?

How about a spam sucker? ❖

TICKER TAPE

Richard campaigned on reducing the city's crime rate in his 1999 election. Final statistics released last week showed that the crime rate - the number of crimes per 100,000 people - increased 6.6 percent in 2001 when compared to 2000. The total number of crimes reported increased 9.7 percent.

KITTLE BLASTS O'BANNON OVER COSTS: At a time when Gov. O'Bannon continues to threaten teacher layoffs and cuts to public education, his administration is feeding Indiana's prisoners premium food at premium costs, according to State GOP Chair Jim Kittle Jr. "The spending judgment of this administration continues to utterly dismay me," said Kittle, as he announced the second "Golden Drain" award for the state's decision to change to prime vendor contracts for food purchases rather than shopping monthly for the lowest prices. "Indiana prisoners and yet another out-of-state firm are the primary beneficiaries of this decision; the losers are Hoosier taxpayers," said Kittle. He praised the governor for his cuts of \$16.5 million in Corrections by eliminating positions, reducing administrative costs and closing units at Westville and Wishard. "But he needs to sharpen his pencil and go deeper," said Kittle.

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