

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.

Brian A. Howey, publisher

Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington writer

Jack E. Howey, editor

The Howey Political Report Office: 317-968-0486
PO Box 40265 Fax: 317-968-0487
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265 Mobile: 317-506-0883

brianhowey@howeypolitics.com
www.howeypolitics.com

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

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

© 2002, *The Howey Political Report*. All rights reserved. Photocopying, Internet forwarding, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or in part, is a violation of federal law and is **strictly prohibited** without consent of the publisher.

“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“To challenge a Republican from the left in a primary is as close to political suicide as you can get ...”

- Hotline’s Chuck Todd, on Paul Helmke’s challenge to U.S. Rep. Mark Souder.

Souder, Helmke getting personal

Bush endorsement changed dynamic

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.** in Washington

Incumbent Republican Rep. Mark Souder and former Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke have been throwing round-house punches in the GOP primary race in the new 3rd CD. Now it's getting personal.

For the first time in her husband's political career, Debbie Helmke will appear in a campaign commercial. In a radio ad entitled "Debbie" that went up after noon today, Mrs. Helmke criticizes Souder for a commercial that mentions that Laura Helmke, 25, once served as an intern in the Clinton administration. "I am speaking today to Mark Souder: My husband can take your attacks. But I am asking you now as a mother: leave my daughter alone." Debbie Helmke also says in the ad: "I thought I would never get involved in my husband's campaigns, but I cannot and will not sit by when someone attacks my children." The Helmkes also have a daughter Kathryn.

Rebecca Fisher, communications director for the Helmke campaign, did not indicate Wednesday night how big the buy is but did say that the ad would be broadcast widely in the new 3rd CD. "There are just some things a Mom can't let go unchallenged," she said. "This is a unique situation and a unique response."

When Helmke announced his run for the seat in February, Souder said he looked forward to a tough but not necessarily divisive race. "I think we can keep it off the personal and on the issues," he said at the time.

Souder began the week with a boost from Washington, putting up a television ad that featured the endorsement of President Bush. "Mark's leadership has been and continues

continued on page 2

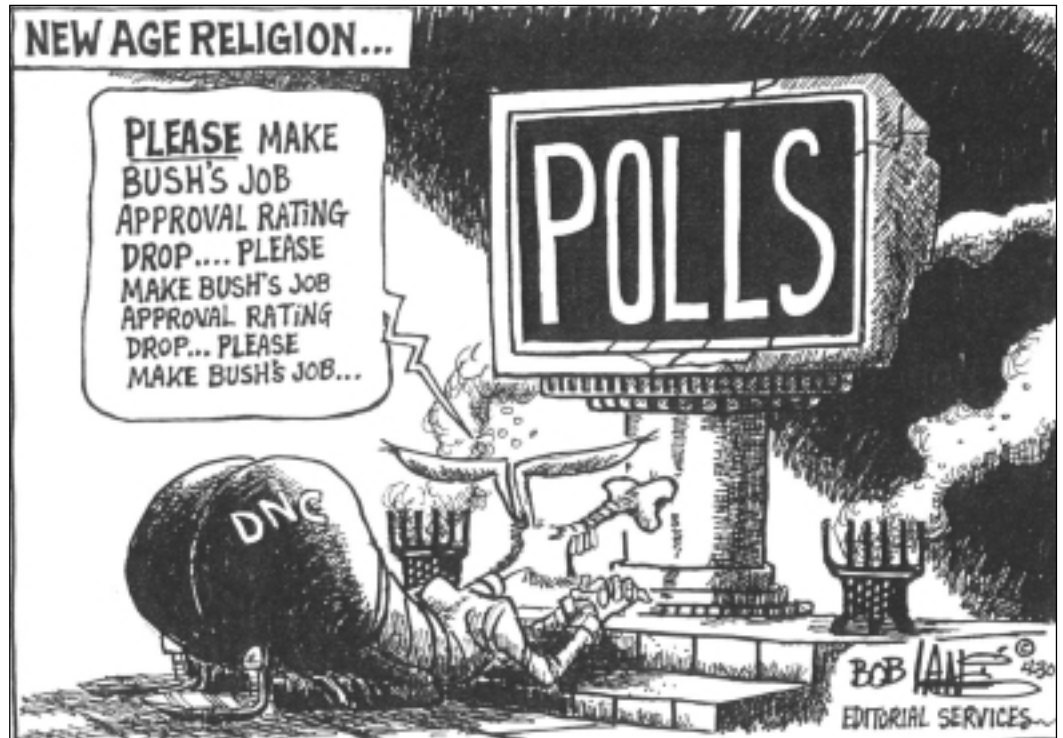
INSIDE FEATURES

Ticker: Bauer sees no tax deal	p. 2
Bob Lang: Democratic prayers	p. 2
Perhaps: Hoosier Latinos & pols	p. 4
Aguilera, Blade, Johnson pressed	p. 5
Horse Race: McIntosh rallies right	p. 7
Special Session: Usual Suspects	p. 8

TICKER T A P E

BAUER, ESPICH DON'T SEE TAX DEAL BEFORE MAY 14: House fiscal leaders said Wednesday there is little hope that legislators will work out a budget and tax restructuring agreement before a special session begins May 14. "Things are not only up in the air . . . but I don't know if it can ever land," said House Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend (Niki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Bauer spoke briefly Wednesday with Rep. Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale, who is the ranking minority member on Ways and Means. Both agreed that one of the biggest concerns about the proposal offered by Sen. Lawrence Borst, R-Greenwood, is increasing the individual income tax from 3.4 percent to 3.7 percent. "I haven't heard either party support an income tax increase in the House," Espich said. "If the Democrats don't want to support their governor's call for tax increases, why on Earth would Republicans?" Espich also said House Republicans are concerned about any new taxes on small businesses.

900 TEACHERS RECEIVING PINK SLIPS STATEWIDE: Dan Clark, deputy director of the Indiana State Teachers Association, which represents about 45,000 teachers in 271 of



to be critical in passing my agenda for a strong national defense, better schools and faith-based solutions to our country's toughest social problems," Bush said in a statement. Unlike informal efforts to propel the candidacy of moderate gubernatorial candidate Richard Riordan in California, Bush is officially backing Souder for the May 7 vote. (Riordan lost his bid in the primary to conservative Bill Simon.)

"In this instance, the president is supporting in a very public way Mark Souder because the president believes he is someone he can work with and believes the public also holds that point of view," said Scott Stanzel, a White House spokesman. Stanzel said that Bush's endorsement was based in part on Souder's efforts to "rally the armies of compassion."

On Wednesday, Stanzel asked Helmke to remove an ad showing the former Fort Wayne mayor meeting with Bush. Although it is not illegal, a White House spokesman called the ad an "unauthorized use of the president's likeness" (Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*).

But Mark Helmke, Paul's brother

and a veteran Washington political operative, said that Bush's entry into the race undermines his political agenda. "Endorsing Souder is a sop to the Republican right wing," he said. "The downside for the White House is it reveals how cynical they are and undercuts the president's message of compassionate conservatism and trying to build an inclusive Republican Party rather than an exclusive party. I was told by a number of my friends in the White House that they were going to stay out of this race. So Souder must have sold his soul to get the endorsement."

Souder has attacked Helmke as being too liberal to represent the district, saying that he raised taxes as mayor and is part of the GOP left-wing. Helmke has criticized the conservative Souder as being too extreme and quirky.

A conservative group that has been one of Souder's strongest advocates is taking partial credit for convincing Bush to weigh in. "We woke them up to the importance of this race," said Stephen Moore, president of the Club for Growth, a Washington-based organization that promotes tax cuts, reduced government, and

Continued on page 3

personal liberty. "It would be a disaster if we lost a conservative to a RINO (Republican in Name Only). It would embolden the liberal side of the Republican Party."

The Club is putting its money where its mouth is, funding a \$25,000 television ad campaign in the new 3rd that portrays Helmke as a "pro-tax, pro-Clinton" candidate. Moore said that the White House endorsement confirms that Souder is on his way to a sixth term. "They must feel pretty confident Souder will win or they wouldn't have put their reputation on the line like this."

Mark Helmke contends that the White House move endangers GOP efforts to attract swing voters. "If they continue to throw sops to the right, they're not only not going to gain control of the Senate, they're in danger of losing the House," he said. Republicans maintain a 222-211 advantage in the House and have a one-seat deficit in the Senate.

Getting the president on your side is a boon for candidates at this point in the political season. Bush garnered a 69 percent approval rating, according to a poll of 1,002 registered voters conducted by Zogby International from April 19- 22. The Bush endorsement is "important in terms of legitimating the incumbent, especially in a new district," Zogby said. "It's particularly useful in the primary, where you have to be sure to get the party faithful."

The new 3rd includes most of the current 4th CD, which Souder represents, and adds Elkhart and Kosciusko counties. The boundaries were redrawn by the state legislature when Indiana lost a House seat due to population shifts.

By the fall, Zogby estimates that Bush's approval numbers will be in the mid-50s -- still a helpful level for GOP candidates. "Anything that could sway even a couple hundred or a couple thousands votes in a district would be pivotal, given how close it will be," he said.

But first, party nominees have to be selected in the primary. The Souder-

Helmke race has been so tough that Democrats are not ruling out hope in the heavily Republican area. "You never know what can happen," said Kim Rubey, of the DCCC. "The primary has been so incredibly divisive that the Republican candidate will be severely weakened."

Roundup of other CDs

4th CD: Bush has stayed out of the campaign between incumbent Reps. Steve Buyer and Brian Kerns. "The president would not be involved in a situation where it's two incumbents facing each other in a primary," said Stanzel.

2nd CD: Vice President Dick Cheney speaks at an event for GOP candidate Chris Chocola today in South Bend. Chocola will face the winner of a four-way Democratic primary in the race to fill what is largely the district being vacated by retiring Democratic Rep. Tim Roemer. Former 4th CD Rep. Jill Long Thompson will likely win the Democratic nod. This race will be on the national radar. "We'll certainly help out. It's a pickup seat for us to expand our majority," said Lea Anne McBride, a spokeswoman for the NRCC. "We're in good shape to do that. There are very promising numbers (for Chocola)," according to a February NRCC poll, she said. "We will work to ensure that Indiana 2 stays in the Democratic column, and we're confident it will," said Kim Rubey of the DCCC.

9th CD: Former 9th CD candidate Kevin Kellems has thrown his support and network of volunteers behind Mike Sodrel in the Republican primary. Sodrel, who owns a Jeffersonville trucking company, is competing against Monroe County councilman Jeff Ellington and Bloomington pilot Chris Redmon. "It's a district a strong Republican candidate can do well in," said McBride. "We feel good looking at Bush's numbers in the (redrawn) district." Rubey countered: "Baron Hill has worked tirelessly for his district." win-tough campaigns." ❖

TICKER

T A P E

the state's 294 school districts, said his office has been notified of about 900 teacher layoffs statewide (Dick Kaukas, Louisville Courier-Journal). Clark estimated that the layoffs came from about half the districts in which teachers are represented by the association. "It's the worst we've seen in a decade or more," Clark said. The New Albany Floyd County school board voted last week to lay off 14 teachers. Board members said the step was part of an effort to offset a projected cut in state funding of about \$1.2 million. South Bend Schools announced Wednesday it would eliminate 314 teacher and administrative positions and close LaSalle HS (Nate Trela, South Bend Tribune).

GARY MAYOR WINS GOP'S 'GOLDEN DRAIN' AWARD: The Indiana Republican Party honored Gary Mayor Scott King (Steve Patterson, Gary Post-Tribune). But he wasn't there to accept the award. Though it hasn't even opened yet, the \$45 million minor-league baseball stadium being built in downtown Gary is already winning awards. At the annual Lincoln Day Dinner at St. Elijah Serbian American Hall, Merrillville, the state party gave King its "Golden Drain" award, for spending two-and-a-half times the amount he origi-

continued on page 4

TICKER T A P E

nally said he would spend on the stadium. Indiana Republican Chairman Jim Kittle went on to praise the \$17 million Victory Field built in Indianapolis in 1995 under the direction of Republican Mayor Stephen Goldsmith. Victory Field's per-seat construction cost, helped greatly by state funds, was \$1,500. Gary's is \$7,500. "Anyone, except possibly an Indiana Democrat, could build a baseball stadium for less than \$7,500 a seat," Kittle said. "Criticism from Republicans on economic development is something I'd consider to be high praise indeed," King said. "Dare we recollect (Herbert Hoover)?" he asked.

LUGAR SAYS 40,000 METRIC TONS OF DEADLY WEAPONS EXIST: U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar told Ground Floor Group supporters in Indianapolis on Saturday that 40,000 metric tons of biological and chemical weapons have been rounded up into seven sites in the former Soviet Union, ready to be destroyed with U.S. funds. "This is as dangerous as anything stored out in Newport," Lugar told a rapt audience (Brian A. Howey, HPR). Lugar said the reason the U.S. is involved is because the Russian military has a mere \$7.5 billion budget, compared to \$390 billion in the U.S. "The reason they don't destroy it is because they

continued on page 5

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Hoosier politicians grapple with emerging Latino power

EAST CHICAGO - This Lake County community has long been one of the most ethnically diverse in Indiana, featuring large Latino, African-American and Eastern European cultures. There is a clash between them playing out politically as State Rep. John Aguilera is facing a severe threat from Milan Kesic in the May Democratic primary.

Aguilera angered state and local Democrats when he bitterly opposed the new legislative maps drawn up by State Rep. Ed Mahern in 2001. Terry Burns of the *Times of Northwest Indiana* reported that Aguilera "not only faces two challenges in the Democratic primary, but also finds himself squaring off against some even more unlikely foes -- the county and state Democratic Party organizations."

While East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick officially denies taking a stance, most observers believe the machine mayor is backing Kesic, who nearly defeated Aguilera two years ago in the primary.

"The district is less Hispanic and more Eastern European, which means a lot come election time up here," said *Gary Post-Tribune* reporter Rich James. "I think Aguilera will get beat. Pastrick is against him and a lot of Democrats are angry with him for bitching about the shape of his new district."

Last December at the Bulen Symposium, Aguilera emotionally made his case. "I had a 30-percent Hispanic district," said the second-term Aguilera. "I did not vote for the map. I was hoping to see significantly more of the community stay intact, particularly for Hispanics. It was a grab for incumbencies."

Aguilera said it was the Republicans who "tried to put a 45 percent

Hispanic district together" for the East Chicago-Whiting-Hammond area, but it was the House Democrats who dropped it. "That was unfortunate," Aguilera said.

"The Democratic Party is taking it for granted that this community will vote one way. It just doesn't happen any more. If you could not see how obvious it was, look at George Bush and the Republicans in 2000 and it showed in the numbers."

In a sense, the Aguilera political saga could be one played out fitfully over the next several decades as Indiana's Latino population explodes mathematically. Cities throughout Indiana, from the big, such as Indianapolis and South Bend, to the small, such as Ligonier and Logansport are feeling the stress lines of scores of Latino youths coming into the school system without English as their primary tongue.

Some politicians such as Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson and Secretary of State candidate Mike Delph have openly courted Latino voters, hoping to create a benchmark for their parties as they grow in numbers and impact. Marion County GOP sheriff candidate Joe McAtee features Latinos in one of his TV ads. Others, such as U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns, are taking a confrontational approach. Kerns is now airing a TV ad which says he wants to tighten Mexican border security and proudly says he "voted no on amnesty for illegal aliens."

Others, such as Elkhart Mayor Dave Miller, are uneasy. Attending a Ground Floor Group fundraiser last weekend in Indianapolis, Miller posed this question to Sen. Richard Lugar and OMB Director Mitch Daniels, the featured speakers. "Immigration, as it exists between the United States and Mexico, is flooding our country and affecting every one of our communities. Our largest

minority is now Latinos and it's changing our culture, our language and, I fear, our politics. What kind of changes do you see happening; what is the administration doing to close this revolving door?"

Lugar responded, "At the end of the day Americans may decide we want to secure our borders and change immigration policy. We've gone back and forth on that historically. On the other hand, President Vicente Fox is counting upon his relationship with President Bush for a new chapter of development with Mexico. In many ways the president of Mexico has been disappointed."

Daniels, a potential 2004 Indiana Republican gubernatorial hopeful, views the Latino influx as an opportunity. His boss, President Bush, polled 31 percent of the Latino vote in 2000. "This is one of those important questions to work out a message in the years just ahead of us," Daniels said. "Immigration to America is an enormous advantage that we have. It is not immigration from Mexico that is problematic per se. It could be some very wrong-headed ideas, sometimes under the label of multi-culturalism, a mosaic, a melting pot, a notion that we can opera-

tive effectively in our communities without one language, one dominant language."

But, Daniels said, "Immigration has kept this country young, it has enriched this country throughout our history. I wouldn't trade for one moment the contributions of millions of, for instance, Asian-Americans who have come here in recent years along with immigrants from the Americas. In many, many cases I think these folks are better Americans than some of the folks who preceded them. I think the real issue is to hold on to the precious American invention that we've never ethnically been one country. We have always been united by ideas. As long as we can sustain that idea and the obligations of citizens, no matter where they come from, we'll be a lot better off than those countries which do throw up protective walls."

While Daniels and others see opportunities, the current East Chicago and Elkhart experience shows that in the coming years, there will be growing pains as Indiana transcends from a culture of black and white to an array of different hues and cultures coming to the polls. ❖

Sens. Blade, Johnson and Rep. Lutz face stiff challenges

INDIANAPOLIS - While Rep. Aguilera may be the most endangered incumbent Indiana legislator, several others are being challenged.

State Sen. Mark Blade, D-Terre Haute, faces a primary challenge from Ed Ping and Tim Skinner. A recent Indiana State University poll in Vigo County had Blade ahead with 31 percent, compared to 20 percent for Ping and 19 percent for Skinner. Blade ran well in Parke and Vermillion counties. But he is weathering a public resignation from the Terre Haute school system after an on-premises love affair was revealed. Ping is advertising heavily. Many observers believe Blade will survive the challenge.

State Sen. Steve Johnson, who endured news of an affair he had with an adult intern several years ago and was censured by the Senate, is facing a spirited challenge from Jeff Drozda of Westfield. Drozda received \$2,500 from David McIntosh, while the Senate majority campaign has contributed \$28,000 to Johnson (Scott Smith, *Kokomo Tribune*). Indiana GOP Chairman Jim Kittle is "walking a fine line," the *Tribune* reported, saying of Johnson, "He's by far and away one of the brightest senators we have." Johnson, Drozda said, shouldn't be elected "by actions that don't espouse conservative values and family values." Drozda opposes the Borst tax plan.

In Muncie, most observers believe State Rep. Jack Lutz will fend off a challenge in the open HD 35 (Rep. Bruce Munson) from Brent Steele. "Steele is considered the underdog," reported Ken de la Bastide of the *Anderson Herald-Bulletin*. ❖

TICKER T A P E

don't have the money," Lugar said. "It's one thing to build. It's another thing to clean it up. But we may not be there forever. It may change. We may be kicked out." Lugar expressed his chagrin that as recently as last week he had to try to deflect Congressional criticism of the use of American dollars to destroy the weapons. Lugar said that if the U.S. doesn't destroy these stockpiles, it could end up in the hands of "renegade troops or terrorists may try to steal it."

DANIELS DOESN'T PUSH POLLS WITH BUSH: OMB Director Mitch Daniels told Ground Floor Group supporters in Indianapolis on Saturday that the Bush administration is a sharp contrast to the poll-driven Clinton administration. "You don't walk into the room and pull out a poll to make a point," Daniels said of meetings with President Bush (Howey, HPR). "That has never happened. But that was part of every decision in the last presidency." Daniels, a potential 2004 Indiana gubernatorial candidate, said that Bush has taken on a "bold project to restore civility, principle and character" to the White House, "qualities we've seen in Dick Lugar." In introducing Daniels, Sen. Lugar noted, "He plays such a crucial role. I see the President from time to time.

continued on page 6

TICKER

T A P E

Mitch sees him all the time."

LUGAR SAYS MOST FARM SPENDING WILL GO TO LARGE COMMODITY PRODUCERS: U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar made the following statement on the Senate-House Farm Bill Conference Report: "Even at a time when our country is involved in a far reaching war against terrorism and new federal budget analysis projects a potential deficit of almost \$100 billion in the current fiscal year and deficits for years to come, the Senate-House Conference Committee on the Farm Bill has called for a 70% increase in farm spending during the next six years. Most of the new spending will go to large commodity growers. The formulas that will be used create the strong probability that as few as 10 percent of the growers will receive more than two-thirds of the new money. The bill will heighten incentives for farmers to over-produce as they seek to maximize the federal subsidies for which they are eligible. The result will be continuing downward pressure on prices and continuing calls for emergency farm rescue legislation." Lugar added, "We could have restored vitality to rural America through broad-based rural development; an end to artificial land values propped up by huge subsidies to

Indiana 2002 Racing Form

Trendline: Congressional Quarterly confirmed what HPR has been reporting for months: Indiana has five potentially competitive CDs in place this year, more than any other state with the exception of Texas and Pennsylvania. "There's always a few states where redistricting can completely upturn a table and Indiana happened to be one of those this year.," *Hotline's* Chuck Todd told Maureen Groppe of Gannet News Service. Horse Race sees competitive primaries in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th CDs, a potential tough races this fall in the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 9th CDs.

Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris. **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:** The ol' Horse sat in on a Dick Lugar/Mitch Daniels briefing before the GOP's Ground Floor Group on Saturday. After the formal presentations, questions were invited and we were flabbergasted when not a soul asked Daniels if he was going to run for governor. We asked financier Bob Grand about that scenario and he smiled. Afterward, HPR had this brief exchange with Daniels: **Horse Race:** "*You'll let us know if we're steering the 2004 scenarior wrong. right Mitch?*" **Daniels:** (smiling) "*You bet.*" McIntosh "is doing more than just testing the waters" for the 2004 gubernatorial nomination, reports Scott Smith of the *Kokomo Tribune*. By openly backing 21st Senate District Jeff Drozda's challenge to Sen. Steve Johnson, McIntosh "is also trying to mobilize conservative voters in one of the most Republican-dominated areas of the state through one of his former campaign aides." McIntosh also endorsed U.S. Rep. Mark Souder against Paul Helmke **Status:** *Leans D.*

Secretary of State 2002: Republican: Mike Delph, Deputy Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Richard Mourdock, Dr. John McGoff. **Democrat:** Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez. **Libertarian:** Rebecca Sink-Burris. **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:** Paul Hager has endorsed Mike Delph. "He's a bright, articulate guy and he's talking about issues actually relevant to the office, in particular working to improve the election process in Indiana. I consider him the strongest candidate to face John Fernandez." Libertarian Party Executive Director Brad Klopfenstein fired back at Hager, who jumped to the Republican Party after losing the nomination (Doug Wilson, *Bloomington Herald-Times*). He called Hager's defection "mostly sour grapes." Klopfenstein expressed surprise that Delph had welcomed the endorsement from Hager, a well-known advocate of drug legalization and a critic of the Reagan administration. Two of Hager's biggest political interests have been gun rights, which he supported by wearing a gun in plain view in public, and drug legalization. Delph said he agrees with Hager's views on gun control, but not on drug legalization. **Status:** *Toss-up.*

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 has launched a direct mail assault against Long Thompson, questioning her labor credentials. JLT supporters see it as a desperate move by the state senator. **Primary Status:** *Likely 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:** As of Wednesday, Souder has \$99,332 on hand; Helmke has \$93,223 in cash. While

HORSE RACE

the Bush administration was complaining about Helmke's "unauthorized use" of his photo (Hello, White House, have you seen the Internet?), Helmke told the *Journal Gazette's* Sylvia Smith he sent two copies of the picture, one from Bush's campaign committee. "If President Bush didn't want my support as a delegate, as a fundraiser, as a supporter, that surprises me," Helmke said. The commercial describes Helmke's Republican roots and shows him meeting with various Republican figureheads, including Barry Goldwater, Sen. Richard Lugar, and former Vice President Dan Quayle. Lugar doesn't have a problem with that, spokesman Andy Fisher said. "It's flattering that candidates want to be associated with him. If it implied an endorsement had been given, it would be one thing, but having the picture and using it is fine." Rep. Mike Pence and David McIntosh endorsed Souder. We thought Helmke was gaining momentum in the last couple of weeks and seriously considered putting this race in the tossup zone last week. The Bush endorsement may have saved Souder, though the incumbent seems to have overplayed his hand on the Laura Helmke ad. Many Republicans haven't liked the tone of Souder's campaign. While we believe Souder will prevail, don't discount the "1948 scenario" where Dewey was supposed to trounce Truman, but one by one folks went to the polls, decided to vote for Harry because he was a nice guy, and Truman pulled off the upset. Helmke could still sneak in and win this thing. **Primary Status:** *Leans Souder.*

Congressional District 4: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns, State Sen. Mike Young. Tim Baynard, Thomas Herr, 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:** Kerns has begun his TV advertising campaign in an ad that features him walking with his father-in-law, former U.S. Rep. John Myers. Kerns sent more unsolicited cards and letters to his constituents in the last three months of 2001 than any other member of Congress. The 792,500 pieces of legal but taxpayer-financed mail sent from October through December cost \$105,178 in postage (Maureen Groppe, *Gannet News Service*). Unless something dramatically changes, we see Buyer prevailing here. **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:** Pence suggested there could be some national interest in his campaign against Fox. "It is a very swing district," Pence said (Rick Yencer, *Muncie Star Press*). Fox told HPR, "The new Sixth District is a big swing district. We have a 54-page campaign prospectus with data that is impressing the DC people." U.S. Rep. J.C. Watts preached a message of government support for faith-based organizations in a campaign stop Tuesday for Mike Pence. "If it was not for faith-based organizations in my poor, black neighborhood in 1981, I probably would not have graduated from a state university," Watts said (Yencer, *Muncie Star Press*). "I would probably have graduated from the state penitentiary." Bill Smith estimated Watts's visit netted the campaign \$30,000. **Status:** *Leans Pence.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: Mike Sodrel, Jeff Ellington, Chris Redmon. **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, Dayton, 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:** With Sodrel's commanding money lead, we believe he will prevail against Ellington, who just never seemed to catch on with the GOP's money people. **Status:** *Leans D.* ❖

TICKER

T A P E

landowners; and greater emphasis on conservation, research, renewable energy programs, and young-farmer loans. The current Farm Bill Conference report has no vision and no new philosophy. It will have potentially devastating effects on farm prices, farm exports, and the small farmers so often mentioned as the reason why farm rescue legislation is needed."

LUTZ, STEELE DEBATE IN TIPTON: Rep. Jack Lutz, R-Anderson, boasts of not raising taxes during his tenure in the Indiana House. "My voting record indicates that I favor tax restructuring and oppose tax increases," Lutz said during a debate Monday with his GOP primary election challenger, Brad Steele (Yencer, *Muncie Star Press*). Steele reminded Lutz during their debate at the Tipton County Foundation Center that the lawmaker had voted to raise state gasoline taxes this spring. "I will not vote for any increase in Hoosier income taxes," said Steele, a Muncie attorney. Aside from that, and the fact that Lutz is an incumbent and Steele is the challenger in House District 35, the candidates have few differences on taxation, energy policy or education.

STATE SENATE SEAT CONTESTED: Primary contests are the exception rather than

continued on page 8

TICKER

T A P E

the rule in Indiana, but Senate District 4 is one of those exceptions: It has four candidates in the two primaries (Chesterton Tribune). In the Democratic primary, incumbent Rose Ann Antich of Merrillville is opposed by Larry Chubb of Chesterton. The Republican primary pits Connie Collins of Ogden Dunes against Shane Stillman of Valparaiso.

MAYORS TO JOIN O'BANNON TODAY IN SPECIAL SESSION CALL: Five Indiana mayors who want to create jobs and protect homeowners will join Gov. Frank O'Bannon today as he signs a proclamation officially calling for a special session of the General Assembly. The mayors are Fred Armstrong of Columbus; Sherman Boles of New Castle; Dan Canan of Muncie; David Heath of Lafayette; and Shelley Miller of Richmond.

BUYER, PENCE VOTE FOR INS SPLIT: U.S. Reps. Steve Buyer and Mike Pence voted for legislation that would strengthen the INS. "There is nothing more important than protecting and securing our borders. It's obvious that the present system is not working. This legislation separates the two functions of the INS-immigration services from enforcement-providing a more streamlined approach," Buyer commented. The bill, which passed the House by a vote of 405

The usual suspects on Son of Borst

By **BRIAN HOWEY**

The Howey Political Report

MERRILLVILLE - What strange, strange times these are at the Indiana Statehouse.

After the Son of Borst tax restructuring plan was issued by the old Dog Doctor from Greenwood, HPR engaged in a conversation of hypotheticals last Thursday with one of our usual sourcing suspects. "What do you wanna bet that the Governor embraces Sen. Borst's tax plan ... just to get the darn thing over with?"

A few hours later, Gov. O'Bannon said this: "This proposal indicates that there is widespread recognition among lawmakers of what I've been saying for months: That the national recession hit Indiana very hard and has greatly affected Hoosiers and their families. Sen. Borst's plan focuses on creating jobs, protecting homeowners and protecting education, the very goals Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan and I set out last fall. This is what Hoosiers expect us to do."

Predictable stances

Other aspects of the Indiana public policy complex fell into predictable stances. House Minority Leader Brian Bosma sat in the back of the room as Borst enveiled "Son of Borst" and was galled. "To vote for tax increases to get us out of this mess is not our responsibility," Bosma said (Shannon Lohrmann, *Lafayette Journal & Courier*). "It's your problem. You have to get us out," he said to House Democrats. "I doubt a single Republican in the House will vote for that proposal."

The only thing that seemed amiss was that Rep. Jeff Espich told the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* he liked some of the economic development aspects.

Bosma began his own statewide stumping tour, making economic development oriented Power Point presentations in Fort Wayne and Terre Haute. House Republicans will caucus on May 9 and the

leadership position is, some new funds may occur, but not a billion, thank you.

Gov. O'Bannon seemed skeptical of the chances. "House Republicans are not as supportive as they should be. I get the feeling there is not much movement in that caucus," he said (Shannon Lohrmann, *Lafayette Journal & Courier*).

Speaking of Democrats

On the other side of the aisle, while Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer was calling for 20 GOP votes, the Wolverine Ds (Reps. Fry, Dvorak and Sturtz on the Michigan border) still seemed recalcitrant. "I'm just not likely to support any income or sales tax increases at all," Fry told the *South Bend Tribune's* Martin DeAgostino.

The House Democrats represent an absolute freak show of intrigue and emotion. The battle for the speakership is in full blow and many wonder how Bauer can lead the faithful down the road of tax increases, particularly with Rep. Sue Crosby's bolt putting majority in doubt.

Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton was his normal cryptic self, resigned to a governor prevailing, even a governor who has yet to attain a legislative No. 1 priority (often because of obstinate Senate Republicans). "Governors win special sessions," Garton told the *Indianapolis Star*. "If we don't pass something, the governor will call us back. I really don't want to spend all summer in Indianapolis."

Which begs the question, what's wrong with summertime in an arid city filled with little green apples? We've got the Indians at Victory Field, the Jazz Fest, a new rock fest, and a couple of races.

Sen. Bob Meeks is the convert who has warmed up to "revenue enhancements," telling the *South Bend Tribune*, "It will be very difficult to do that, extremely difficult, if we don't have some type of revenue between now and then," he said.

Big business was warm to Son of

Borst. Pat Kiely of the IMA called it a "major step forward." The Chamber's Kevin Brinegar was optimistic. "I had a hand in it," Brinegar said, adding that legislative leadership "wants it over. It's likely to be resolved, but with as few Republican votes as possible."

Meanwhile, the Hoosier news media was taking a pass on any in-depth analysis of the Son of Borst Plan, though some is expected to pop up closer to the May 14 special session date.

Can it pass the House?

Economist Bill Styring was pondering the political scenario as opposed to the economic one. "Can it pass the House?" Styring asked. "Sure, they got 51 the first time around, but that was a free throw. They knew they would see it again. This time it's different. Besides, Bauer wants to be Speaker, and how much heat can he put on to vote for a tax increase *before* an election when they have the option of voting for one *after* the election? The House D's don't know that maybe we'll get them locked up on a tax increase vote and then pull the plug in the Senate."

Borst, Styring said, "is in something of a legacy mood." The senator has survived cancer and with age, his mortality is ticking. "He knows this will be his last chance to put a stamp on state fiscal policy, a big part of his life's work. On the Senate side, he can count on most of the 18 D's. Even if Garton is saying 'No' (and he may not), all he needs for 26 is to peel off a quarter of his caucus. That he surely can do."

Battle of the op-ed

By mid-week, the debate took off on the same newspaper editorial pages that O'Bannon unsuccessfully tried to work into critical mass last fall. He wrote, "The past months of debate over the difficult issues facing Indiana have been marked by attempts by some to confuse Hoosiers. But the issues are simple, and I

believe that Hoosiers who understand them will support the solutions that Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan and I have offered.

"Political rhetoric has sometimes obscured the issues for average Hoosiers, who have neither accounting degrees nor the time to study issues in great detail," O'Bannon continued on what could have been a critique of the press. "Thank your Democratic senators and representatives for voting with us to protect education, to cut property taxes and to create jobs. And tell them to keep up the good fight. Encourage your Republican senators to stay the course. And tell those legislators who have not yet indicated their support that you expect them to meet our challenges."

GOP Chairman Jim Kittle couldn't resist responding. "Gov. O'Bannon suggests that Hoosiers have become 'confused' by the debate over how to restructure state taxes and solve Indiana's budget problems. The truth is that if Hoosiers are confused, the governor has no one to blame but himself. Nowhere in his cleverly worded piece does he mention the words 'tax increase.' Yet that's exactly what he's asking Hoosier voters to support.

"The governor obscures the issue by saying he wants lawmakers to vote to protect education. OK, who would be against that? And the governor says he wants lawmakers to vote for jobs. Would any rational person be against that? Finally, the governor says he wants lawmakers to vote to cut property taxes. That sounds great, right?

"A typical family will pay \$350 to \$700 a year more in state taxes (in the Kernan plan) if the governor and lieutenant governor get their way. If the governor is so concerned about Hoosiers being confused by this debate, he should start by fully disclosing exactly what he wants the legislature to do. He must tell us exactly what taxes he wants to raise and by how much. Put it on the table. Put it on the governor's website. Let's see if Hoosiers want it or not."

Stay tuned. ❖

TICKER T A P E

to 9, would split the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) into two new organizations that concentrate on different missions -administering immigration benefits and enforcing immigration laws. "I am pleased to support this important bipartisan legislation to protect America's borders and provide better services for legal immigrants," said Pence. "We all remember hearing that two of the September 11 hijackers had received their student visas six months after the attacks. This legislation should help ensure that a debacle like this does not happen again." ❖

Wei rd Scenes Inside the Statehouse Gol dmi ne

(A speech by HPR's
Brian A. Howey)

For fees and scheduling
call 317-254-1533
or e-mail
brianhowey@comcast.net

❖