

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“It was more interesting that I said it than that Gov. Dean said it.”

- U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, on criticisms of the Bush administration over the Iraq policy, to the *Indianapolis Star*

McIntosh to drop out of gov’s race

President Bush brings seismic change

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis
And **MARK SCHOEFF JR.** in Washington

President George W. Bush’s return to Indiana on Friday promises seismic repercussions with the winnowing of the Indiana Republican gubernatorial field as David McIntosh and Mitch Daniels will hold a joint press conference at 3 p.m. today at Indiana Republican Headquarters.

Fearing an endorsement from President Bush for Daniels while watching his own fundraising base dry up, sources say McIntosh will close his second gubernatorial campaign. “David realizes the president is the leader of the party,” the source told HPR.

President Bush carries titanic sway in Hoosier politics. In April 2002, Bush endorsed U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, who was challenged by former Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke. With that endorsement, the bottom dropped out of the Helmke campaign and Souder won an emphatic 60-37 percent primary victory.

McIntosh’s problem is that he’s facing a diminished fundraising base despite the fact that internal polling shows him still leading Daniels in the head-to-head matchup, though the gap is closing. “That’s what is tough about this,” the source said, “exiting a race that we’re still leading.”

Sources close to the campaign say McIntosh is repeatedly finding past funders closing their checkbooks because people such as Republican Chairman Jim Kittle are telling them the race for the nomination is a foregone conclusion.

If McIntosh, who at age 45 is still young by political standards, finds himself at a crossroads, so, too, does President Bush and all who hope to latch on to his coattails

INSIDE FEATURES

Ticker: Manous indictment coming	p. 3
Horse Race ‘04: A McIntosh exit	p. 3
Congressional Roundup	p. 4
Horse Race ‘03: Anderson heats up	p. 6
Columnists: Colwell, Howey	p. 8

Covering 10 years of Indiana politics

TICKER

T A P E

BUSH AT 55 PERCENT IN CBS POLL: A CBS News poll of 930 adults, conducted over August 26-28 (+/- 3%), shows: 55% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President"; 37% disapprove; 8% don't know.

KELLEMS IN LINE FOR PENTAGON JOB: The Washington Post reported that former 9th CD candidate Kevin Kellems may become the press spokesman for the Pentagon.

MANOUS INDICTMENT EXPECTED: A federal grand jury is wrapping up a lengthy investigation into a 1999 Porter County land deal allegedly tied to former Indiana Democratic party chairman Peter Manous and the state's carpenters' union (Times of Northwest Indiana). A federal source who has followed the investigation said the grand jury convened Wednesday in Hammond, and indictments are imminent. Sources in the carpenters' union also said they expect federal indictments to be issued soon. Manous abruptly quit his post as party leader in February, and it became public that federal investigators were probing his involvement with the carpenters' union's land deal at Coffee Creek development in Porter County. His attorney

in 14 months. While Bush is extremely popular in Indiana, he is not without his critics ... Republican critics.

Speaking in Franklin last week, U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer told the *Johnson County Daily Journal*, "What Afghanistan was during the Russian occupation, Iraq has become to the United States. This administration had better wake up and realize that. We have had the end of major combat operations, but we're still in a war.

"For some reason, we think there's this peace in Iraq and we're having problems with the peacekeeping." Buyer told the crowd. "No. So long as Saddam Hussein is at large and alive, with his whereabouts not known, we're going to have this (guerrilla fighting) go on."

Buyer's voice has joined Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar, who for months has been critical of the Bush administration's post-war planning. Lugar has been forced to goad the Bush administration into stating what the real costs are, and the dangers if Iraqi reconstruction wanes, creating a "failed state" and an international debacle.

Cowboy turns pragmatic

Although much has been made of the influence of neoconservatives on White House policy, this week President Bush is demonstrating that he will become more practical and cautious as the election draws closer. The Bush administration announced on Wednesday that it will go to the United Nations to seek more troops and money for Iraq from the international community by giving the UN a larger role in rebuilding the country.

This represents another victory for Secretary of State Colin Powell. From the beginning, Powell has vanquished neocons such as Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz more often than he has been defeated by them. One year ago this month, Bush went to the UN to seek a resolution to go to war against Iraq, following the Powell policy prescription. Powell

also was victorious in getting a State Department person appointed civilian administrator in Iraq. Although he reports to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, L. Paul Bremer was appointed to his post in Baghdad after a long diplomatic career.

What the most recent developments in Iraq indicate is that when it comes to crunch time, Bush's cowboy tendencies are trumped by his pragmatism. It may be true that most of Iraq is subdued and beginning its long journey back from a generation of deprivation under Saddam Hussein. But the fact remains that news will be made by bombs, not incremental progress. And each explosion threatens the U.S. effort to put the country back on its feet. When a bomb goes off, taking several to dozens of innocent lives, it undermines U.S. credibility among Iraqis and in the rest of the world.

The most commonly used adjective to describe the situation in Iraq is "chaos." That is the dominant topic in everything from news stories to think-tank reports. People are either asserting that Iraq is falling apart or is on the verge of drifting into oblivion. Bush is now doing in Iraq what he has been advised to do for more than a year -- seek more international help -- because he knows it's smart politics. He needs the cover that the UN will give him if things continue to deteriorate between now and next fall -- and they may because the task will take years.

Bush seeks cover

His actions on Iraq are not unlike his pledge to create a government czar to revive the U.S. manufacturing sector. Both serve to give Bush some cushion. Just as he needs to follow through with real programs, such as worker retraining, to really change the lives of factory workers left behind by the global economy, Bush also needs to follow through in his outreach to the UN. The U.S. must be willing to share power and information in Iraq if it is to put France, Germany, and Arab countries under the peacekeeping

Continued on page 3

2004 Racing Form

Governor 2004: Republican: Mitch Daniels, David McIntosh, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris, Bob Parker. **Democrat:** Joe Andrew, State Sen. Vi Simpson, Roy Graham. **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: McIntosh is expected to announce his withdrawal this afternoon, possibly in an Indianapolis Star story, followed by a press conference, possibly with Daniels. As of this morning, none of this was etched in stone. And

the impact if he does? It would remove Daniels' greatest remaining obstacle to the nomination, allow him to raise and save money for the fall, and run more to the center against Eric Miller. Simpson tried to link the federal deficit to Daniels this week. "Mitch Daniels managed the federal budget and turned the largest surpluses in history into the largest deficits in history.," Simpson said. "Now he's asking us to hand over the state budget and Indiana's economy to his Washington thinking? We simply cannot take that chance." GOP Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. responded by linking Simpson to Gov. O'Bannon and the state's \$850 million deficit. **Democratic Primary Status:** *Tossup*. **Republican Primary Status:** *LIKELY DANIELS*. ❖

yoke.

If Bush can give himself cover in Iraq, it will help him politically in the United States with an electorate that is growing increasingly uneasy about Iraq. Each day, the number of troops killed since the end of the war further exceeds the number killed during the war. A Congress that came back into session this week is growing restive about funding required for the Iraq occupation. Sen. Lugar has been the most vocal and eloquent of those demanding solid figures from the White House. But as the estimates reach the \$100 billion mark (monthly spending on the military in Iraq alone is \$4 billion), he is being joined by a congressional Greek chorus seeking a money explanation.

Iraq and Daniels

That funding question may have an impact on the Hoosier gubernatorial race. Not long after former White House economic adviser Lawrence Lindsay predicted that rebuilding Iraq would cost between \$100 and \$200 billion dollars, he was shown the door. The person who stepped in to set the record straight was then-budget director Mitch Daniels, who

HORSE RACE

asserted in a Dec. 31 *New York Times* article that the actual bill would be more along the lines of \$50 to \$60 billion.

But Bremer recently told the *Washington Post* that the cost would be "tens of billions of dollars." If the final bill tends more toward the Lindsay range than the Daniels range, will Daniels take heat from his Republican and Democratic gubernatorial opponents for downplaying the Iraq reconstruction costs? That would be an additional attack beyond the heat he is sure to receive for a federal deficit that is now estimated to be \$401 billion this fiscal year and \$480 billion in 2004.

McIntosh's concerns

Therein lies the dilemma for David McIntosh. He has been seeking advice on whether to accept the inevitable and exit the race. But he is concerned about Daniels' potential liabilities when it comes to the Bush administration, its economy and the war. Maybe the \$50-\$60 billion figure was the best estimate last December. As time goes by, the costs inevitably escalate because the rebuilding process is much more difficult than anticipated. Ultimately, this may be an inside-the-beltway parlor game that has no reso-

TICKER

T A P E

ney, Mark Rotert of Chicago, said at the time Manous was not the target of the investigation. Neither Rotert nor Manous, a Merrillville attorney, has commented publicly since then. Kevin Pastrick, son of longtime East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick, reportedly has also come under federal scrutiny for the land deal, as has Gerry Nannenga, executive treasurer-secretary of the statewide union, the Indiana Regional Council of Carpenters, Floor Coverers and Millwrights. Manous reportedly persuaded the carpenters' union to use its pension funds to buy the 55 acres, and it was Pastrick who signed the state-required sales disclosure form for the project.

ANDREW CALLS PRESIDENTIAL RACE DEAN'S TO LOSE: Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean has emerged as a nominal front-runner in a field of nine. But he's built his small lead among the sliver of Americans who've tuned in early. Any of several candidates still could win the nomination (Steven Thomma, Knight-Ridder). "This thing is just getting started," said Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, a Democrat. "This campaign will really begin to heat up after Labor Day." Joe Andrew, a former chairman of the Democratic

continued on page 4

TICKER

T A P E

National Committee and Indiana gubernatorial candidate, observed, "It's his to lose right now. He's got the energy, the excitement. He's got the large, committed group of people getting involved in politics for the first time. ...These are all the conditions that Bill Clinton had in 1992."

PENCE'S PORNOGRAPHY DOMAIN LAW GETS FIRST ARREST: A law conceived when a local congressman stumbled across a pornographic Internet site as he surfed the Web with his daughter netted its first arrest Wednesday (Columbus Republic). Federal agents arrested John Zuccarini, 53, in Hollywood, Fla., for violating the Truth in Domains Act that President Bush signed into law April 30. The act, written by U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., makes it illegal to use a misleading domain name to attract minors to explicit sex Internet sites. The U.S. attorney's office said Zuccarini registered at least 3,000 Web sites under misleading domain names to trick users into visiting. Zuccarini established sites using popular addresses, such as disneyland.com, but transpose or omit certain letters. A wrong key-stroke could send someone looking for Disneyland, Teletubbies, Britney Spears or other sites to one of his domains instead. The user

continued on page 5

nance with Hoosiers who are worried about their jobs. Perhaps.

Strengths and weaknesses

Washington political analyst Charlie Cook notes that Bush's national re-elect numbers are basically back to his pre-war point, with the August survey showing 42 percent would definitely vote to re-elect Bush, 32 percent would definitely vote against re-electing him, and 23 percent would consider voting for some-

one else.

Cook observed, "For a summer that saw plenty of political developments, in the end the changes were more subtle than fundamental. There are increasing signs that the economy is recovering and yet the situation in Iraq is growing more and more problematic. In effect, we are seeing the president's weakness strengthening while his strength seems to be weakening. This has yet to be reflected in any polls, but it is a curiosity that bears watching." ❖

Trio of Congressional Races Worth Watching

FRENCH LICK - At least three Congressional races are taking shape for the 2004 election cycle in Indiana, with the two most competitive coming in Southern Indiana's 8th and 9th CDs.

With the 2nd CD and U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola's first re-election campaign in a 50/50 district, that one also will warrant watching. Here's how we see the Congressional wars shaping up.

8TH CD: The most compelling speculation is whether U.S. Rep. John Hostettler will seek a fifth term. His highly respected campaign team is scattered, with Eric Holcomb now serving as Mitch Daniels' political director and Jim Banks managing Linda Buskirk's Fort Wayne mayoral campaign. With his key talent involved in other races and Hostettler showing only \$5,018, the reasons for retirement are present. But Hostettler's office refused to answer the blunt question: Will he seek a fifth term?

Hostettler won a 51-46 percent victory over Bryan Hartke in 2002, whom he out-raised \$573,220 to \$395,840. Hartke is considering another bid.

The real difference in the dynamic is that two Democrats are showing signs of raising money and raising a competitive race. The most impressive to date is former Boston Celtics scout Jonathon Jennings, who has raised more than six figures. Another looking to get into the race is Kevin Derr. Both Democrats were

impressive and well received at the annual 8th CD meeting last month at French Lick. "Tax cuts for the very wealthy are flat wrong, though I support parts of the tax cut plan," Jennings said (*Vincennes Sun-Commercial*). "I support the tax cuts for the middle class -- the working class -- because they are the ones who go out and create a supply and demand economy."

The problem for Democrats is that President Bush can be expected to run well in the conservative 8th CD (Bush won the district 56-42 percent over Al Gore in 2000), so they can't expect a tail wind.

9TH CD: U.S. Rep. Baron Hill was out-spent by Republican Mike Sodrel, \$1.6 million to \$1.1 million, but withstood a late visit from President Bush to Louisville and won a third term, 51-46 percent. A rematch is anticipated and Republicans appear to be ready to take Sodrel more seriously this time. Just on Wednesday, the National Republican Campaign Committee released a "report card" on Hill, giving him "Fs" on the economy, health care, education and senior citizens, saying, "Rep. Baron Hill's midterm report card shows congressman (is) failing his constituents." Sodrel did not get that type of assistance in 2002.

Another reason is that President Bush crushed Al Gore 56-42 percent in the 9th CD in 2000.

2ND CD: The favorite to take on

U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola appears to be South Bend attorney Joe Donnelly, though St. Joseph County Prosecutor Michael Dvorak and his son, State Rep. Ryan Dvorak, may take a look. Democrats are hoping to come up with a consensus choice sometime early this fall. Chocola, who defeated Jill Long Thompson 50-46 percent while out-raising her \$1.6 million to \$1.5 million, posted \$311,164 on his June FEC report. Chocola would enter the 2004 sequence as an early favorite, but the district is considered 50/50, though President Bush won it in 2000 with a 53-44 percent edge.

As for the rest of the Congressional delegation, here's how we see things shaping up:

1ST CD: U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky won a 67-31 percent victory in his new district in 2002, and Al Gore won the district in 2000, 56-42 percent. 'Nuff said.

3RD CD: Ditto for U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, who rolled up a 63-34 percent win over Democrat Jay Rigdon after trouncing former Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke in the primary, 60-37 percent.

4TH CD: Dennis Hardy, an Army major stationed at the Pentagon and a former aide to U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns, is preparing a GOP primary challenge. Hardy says he decided to run shortly after Buyer asked for a leave of absence from Congress because he had been called into active duty in the Army for the war in Iraq (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*). At the time, Hardy worked in the Pentagon office in charge of mobilizing reservists. Hardy said that office had no knowledge of Buyer being mobilized. "It soon became clear that Steve Buyer was showing a serious lack of integrity by lying to the Speaker of the House, members of Congress, constituents of the 4th District, and every soldier who was serving their country," Hardy said. "This lack of integrity cannot be tolerated and is a disgrace to the office of congressman." Buyer told the *Journal & Courier*, "He's saying that I was mobilized. I never

claimed I was mobilized. I suppose he wants to begin his campaign with a pretty vicious and outrageous attack. I suppose if somebody wants to criticize my willingness to serve the country, they can do that -- (it's a) free country. The need was identified. I said yes. The military side of the Pentagon supported my going, but the civilian leadership did not. I know what it was like when I drew all my combat gear, got the haircut, sat at home and waited for my mobilization orders."

Buyer will be tough to beat. He defeated Hardy's former boss, Rep. Kerns, 55-30 percent in the 2002 primary, then rolled over Democrat Bill Abbott 71-26 percent while raising \$924,869. If Hardy thinks that he has an issue with Buyer's strange mobilization saga, the challenger may have to answer for the poor performance, both in office and in the 2002 primary, of the Kerns organization, which was one of the worst at the Congressional level in modern Hoosier politics. The *Almanac of American Politics* observed, "Buyer won easily in November and should be safe the rest of the decade."

5TH CD: Democrat Katherine Fox Carr will seek a rematch against U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, who won his new district 72-25 percent in 2002. President Bush carried it 69-30 percent in 2000. Fox reporting raising \$100 this summer. Yes, \$100. It's Danny's for as long as he desires.

6TH CD: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence won an impressive 64-34 percent victory over Melina Fox in 2000, while out-raising the Democrat \$1.2 million to \$342,987. While Fox says she is "keeping my options open," running in the 6th in 2004 would be daunting, as President Bush carried the district 58-40 percent in 2000.

7TH CD: Watch for former Libertarian Andrew Horning to possibly take on U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. But after Brose McVey out-raised Carson \$1.1 million to \$1.09 million and still lost 53-44 percent, it's hard to see this race on the major funding radars. ❖

TICKER T A P E

would be forwarded instantly to a pornographic site. Zuccarini would be paid by sex sites whenever his trick forwarded someone to their address. The man reportedly made about \$1 million a year through the activity. Pence commended U.S. Attorney James Comey, with the southern district of New York, for tracking down Zuccarini. "Through his efforts, the Internet will be safer for all of our children," Pence said in a press release.

QUAYLE BUST TO BE INSTALLED: A life-size marble bust of former Vice President Dan Quayle will be unveiled Wednesday at a Capitol Hill ceremony (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The sculpture will join 43 other vice presidential head-and-shoulder sculptures in an area of the Capitol that has been largely hidden from public view since restrictions were placed on public areas of the Capitol after the Sept. 11 attacks. The marble bust, more than five years in the making, will be displayed directly across from Quayle's predecessor as vice president, George H.W. Bush. Quayle, Vice President Cheney and former President Bush are scheduled to attend the invitation-only reception, which will bring closure to a tragic history in the creation of the stone likeness. First, the renowned artist hired to

continued on page 6

TICKER

T A P E

design the bust died just before the project was scheduled to be turned over to a famous stone carver to finish. Frederick Hart, the sculptor of "Three Soldiers" at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, created Quayle's bust in clay shortly before dying in the summer of 1999. The clay bust was refined by Hart's assistant, Jeffrey Hall. Then Vincent Palumbo, a legendary stone carver who spent years carving statues and gargoyles at the Washington Cathedral, died unexpectedly in 2000 before beginning work on the bust. Daniel Sinclair, a New York stone carver, was picked to finish the job, and his signature on the Italian-marble bust will be joined by those of Hart and Hall.

BUYER ACCEPTS ELECTRIC MONEY: Hoosier Rep. Steve Buyer, R-4th, has accepted more than \$98,000 from the electricity industry for his political campaigns in the past decade. Buyer is one of 57 members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which is investigating last month's blackout that affected more than 50 million Americans and Canadians (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). He is the only Hoosier on the committee.

BROOKS HOSTS EVENT BACKING PATRIOT ACT:

2003 Racing Form

Trendline: The tax restructuring issue has surfaced in mayoral races in Evansville and Lafayette this past week. Republicans are pressing Democrats on near term relief on skyrocketing property tax bills. In Evansville, Lloyd is accusing State Rep. Jonathon Weinzapfel of voting for HB 1001ss, despite the fact that he was one urban mayor who called on the legislature to act.

2003 Indiana Mayoral Races

Anderson Mayoral: Republican: Kevin Smith. Democrat: Robert W. Rock.

Independent: Linda Haynes. **1995 Results:** Lawler (D) 9,411, Graham (R) 8,817. **1999 Results:** Lawler (D) 8,395, Czarniecki (R) 7,002 Haynes (I) 1,950. **2003 Forecast:** Smith leads Rock in a poll released today by the Indiana Republican Part, 45-32 percent (Public Opinion Strategies, July 21-22, +/-5.6 percent). "This survey shows the people of Anderson are fed up with politics as usual in Anderson," said Jennifer Hallowell, political director for the Indiana Republican Party. "It also shows that people in Anderson realize Kevin Smith is the only candidate who can honestly change city government." Smith and Rock on Tuesday issued press statements calling for sweeping changes in how Anderson city government operates (Ken de la Bastide, *Anderson Herald-Bulletin*). Smith, during a press conference in front of the Anderson City Building, said restoring ethics to city government has to take place before Anderson can attract new jobs. "The key to attracting new jobs to Anderson is first cleaning up city government," he said. "We must send a message to potential employers. Politics as usual will not be business as usual in the Smith administration. Sixteen years is long enough," said Smith of incumbent Democrat J. Mark Lawler's tenure as mayor. "The city of Anderson is ready for a change. We must end the politics-as-usual-mentality inside the city building." Rock said he will ask the City Council to approve an ordinance establishing ethical standards of behavior for city employees and creation of a bipartisan board of ethics. "The public deserves to expect the highest ethical standards of conduct by elected, appointed officials and employees of the city," he said. **General Status:** *Leans Rock.*

HORSE RACE

Evansville Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr.. Democrat: State Rep.

Jonathon Weinzapfel. **1995 Results:** McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. **1999 Results:** Lloyd (R) 15,980, Borries (D) 15,461. **2003 Forecast:** Lloyd goes on the offensive. Republicans unveil the "taxzapfel.com" website. It accuses Weinzapfel of voting for the property tax reassessment plan that raised the real estate taxes on 2 out of 3 homes in Evansville. (HB 1001 (ss) 2002); In 1999, Jonathan Taxzapfel voted against cutting property taxes three times. (Indiana House Journal '99); in 2002, Jonathan Taxzapfel voted to increase the sales tax 20%! (HB 1001(ss) 2002); in 2001, Jonathan Taxzapfel voted to increase your motor vehicle fees (HB 1170, RC 755, 2001)." Lloyd presented a written vision for Evansville's future that includes goals in job growth, neighborhood revitalization and quality-of-life projects (John Martin, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Lloyd said he has been working on the plan throughout his first term. Lloyd called the document "a future vision of what we see Evansville becoming through focus and determined action." Weinzapfel said Lloyd waited too long to lay out his vision for the city. "It's disappointing that it's taken Russ Lloyd four years to develop a plan and decide what he wants to do as mayor," the Democratic candidate said. Weinzapfel released a written plan for Evansville on Wednesday that calls for job-creation initiatives, a traveling City Hall program and new partnerships with local schools. Weinzapfel also vowed to prioritize Center City improve-ments and community policing, and he said he would use the city's Web site to promote volunteerism and help people find jobs. On Labor Day, Lloyd and some Republican City Council candidates marched with local Teamsters. Weinzapfel marched with the local

Plumbers and Steamfitters. **General Status:** *Leans Weinzapfel.*

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Linda Buskirk. **Democrat:** Mayor Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Results:** Richard (D) 21,607, Buskirk (R) 21,531. **2003 Forecast:** Buskirk began her TV campaign on Monday. "I'm Linda Buskirk. Too many politicians talk in sound bites and catchy phrases that lack substance," the ad begins. "They're told that specific ideas invite criticism. I disagree. That's why I'm running for mayor with a real platform of new, specific ideas to grow our city and bring jobs back to Ft. Wayne. For a copy of my plan to turn Fort Wayne around visit LindaBuskirk.com. Take a look and let me know what you think. Fort Wayne can do better." A proposal by Richard to take over some city and county services appears headed nowhere (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). County Council members said Thursday they will look at it but then criticized Richard for the way he delivered the offer, saying it came to late in this year's budget cycle. Buskirk put her campaign in Mayor Graham Richard's face last Thursday, conducting a news conference in front of his campaign headquarters (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Buskirk answered Mayor Richard's challenge to find even one new idea in her booklet on economic development, "*We Can Do Better.*" Instead of one, Buskirk listed 50 ideas for economic development she said are new. Richard fired back later, saying the city is already doing those things. "If these aren't new ideas, Mr. Mayor, then why don't you tell the people what you've been doing?" Buskirk asked. Richard pointed to the list. "I feel every single item . . . we've already addressed," Richard said. **General Status:** *Leans Buskirk.*

Lafayette Mayoral: Republican: Clerk Lisa Decker. **Democrat:** Councilman Tony Roswarski. **1999 Results:** Heath (R) 6,237, Weiss (D) 5,496. **2003 Forecast:** Decker wants Lafayette City Council members to encourage state officials to adopt her property tax relief plan. On Tuesday, Decker said council president Dennis Probasco, R-1st District, has agreed to sponsor a resolution asking state officials to extend payment deadlines, allow deferrals for senior citizens and extend several exemptions. "The governor responded that it is too early to tell whether statewide relief is needed," said Decker, who offered the plan two weeks ago, modeling it on a state GOP proposal (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*). "Well, it is needed and Lafayette taxpayers need the help now." Roswarski did not rule out supporting that proposal, calling property tax relief a bipartisan issue. "It's not about Democrats and it's not about Republicans," Roswarski said during a news conference Tuesday afternoon. "It's about people and all of us working together for a solution to help taxpayers." He wants to review the process local assessors used in determining property assessments. He said citizens tell him they cannot believe assessors accurately assessed their property. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Marion Mayoral: Republican: Councilman Wayne Seybold. **Democrat:** Mayor Bill Henry. **1999 Results:** Henry (D) 3,979, Mowery (R) 2,998. **2003 Forecast:** Seybold, a skater in the 1988 Olympics, is challenging the first-term incumbent. Republicans believe this is a mayor's race they can pickup. Marion is losing jobs and population, thanks to big companies like Thomson Consumer Electronics whittling away jobs. Seybold and the Republican ticket are campaigning on rebuilding "trust" and "infrastructure." Henry told a Labor Day crowd, "We must have a community where families can survive on one income" (*Marion Chronicle Tribune*). **General Status:** *TOSSUP.*

New Albany Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Regina Overton. **Democrat:** Councilman James E. Garner. **Libertarian:** Melanie Hughes. **1995 Results:** England 6,845, Real (R) 5,886. **1999 Results:** Overton (R) 5,512, England (D) 4,205. **2003 Forecast:** New Albany's police and firefighters' unions joined forces yesterday for the first time to endorse candidates in the Nov. 4 city elections (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). After interviewing candidates last month, the unions endorsed City Councilman James Garner. Dow O'Neal, president of the police union, also gave Garner a \$2,000 check from the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police at yesterday's endorsement announcement, saying the state organization supports him. Warren Nash, chairman of the Floyd County Democratic Party, said the campaign help the unions promised their candidates may be even more important than money. "Their help will be significant," he said, "because you never get enough volunteers." **General Status:** *Tossup.* ❖

TICKER

T A P E

Law enforcement and intelligence officials from around the state got an intense primer on the USA Patriot Act, a vast anti-terrorism law passed after the Sept. 11 attacks (Niki Kelly, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "The debate is how do we balance national security and individual rights," said U.S. Attorney Susan Brooks, of the Southern District of Indiana. "How much do we give up of one to get more of the other?" Brooks hosted the event as part of a coordinated nationwide effort initiated by Attorney General John Ashcroft that requires U.S. attorneys to conduct community meetings explaining and hailing the Patriot Act.

EAST CHICAGO RECOUNT GOES TO SUPREME COURT: The outcome of the East Chicago mayor's race is now in the hands of the Indiana Supreme Court. George Pabey is asking the state's highest court to review his 278-vote loss to Mayor Robert Pastrick, a victory a state judge has already said was heavily tainted by fraudulent votes (Michael Puente, *Post-Tribune*). Tuesday, Pabey filed papers asking the Indiana Supreme Court to take jurisdiction over the case, order a new election and consider those requests as quickly as possible. East Chicago must have a Democratic candidate on the

continued on page 8

TICKER T A P E

ballot for November's general election. Pabey says he'd be that candidate if not for hundreds of fraudulent votes cast for Pastrick in May's Democratic primary. Pastrick said no fraudulent votes were cast, but after a two-week trial, LaPorte Superior Court Judge Steven King ruled Pabey presented 155 fraudulent votes cast for Pastrick, but said Pabey had failed to provide for 278 cases, an amount that would have affected the outcome.

LAKE COUNTY SETS UP ELECTION PANEL: The Lake County Election Board is establishing an eight-member committee to investigate the problems that plague the county's absentee voting system (Karen Snelling, Post-Tribune). The decision to set up the eight-member review panel came Tuesday after the board accepted the resignation of an employee who illegally voted in the East Chicago primary. Manuel "Rick" Morphin resigned his \$25,000-a-year county job as an election board mechanic days after the Post-Tribune published a story that recounted his testimony during a trial challenging the outcome of the East Chicago mayoral primary. Morphin testified he voted in the East Chicago primary, even though he was living in Schererville.

ROKITA SUBMITS ELECTION PLAN TO FEDS: Indiana Secretary of State

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Running mates don't run this early. Well, they didn't. Until now. But off they sprint: Joe Andrew, the former Democratic state and national chairman who wants to be the next governor of Indiana, and Bren Simon, already picked as his running mate for lieutenant governor. One reason for the selection of Simon is that she can afford the highest-priced running shoes at any store in University Park Mall. Heck, she and her husband, Mel Simon, are of the Simons who own that mall, own many malls. She is a major contributor to Democratic campaigns and causes. Andrew will expect her to contribute heavily to his effort to defeat state Sen. Vi Simpson, the veteran legislator who represents the Bloomington area, his opponent for the Democratic nomination for governor. That race will be decided in the primary election next May. Normally, since selection of lieutenant governor nominees was taken out of the primary and left to state convention delegates, a winning nominee for governor makes a recommendation for a running mate just before the June convention. But Andrew made his choice early to help create the impression that he has the nomination sewn up already and, of course, because he expects Simon to contribute heavily to victory in the primary. And to contribute even more heavily, if he is successful there, as an Andrew-Simon ticket runs in the '04 fall campaign against the Republican nominees. Most reviews of Simon's initial performances around the state at news conferences and during the big Demofest last weekend in French Lick have been favorable. She clearly is intelligent and is on a journey to further the principles of her party -- not just on an ego trip. So does that mean she is the most qualified running mate Andrew could find in terms of serving as lieutenant governor, just a heartbeat from the top job? No. In terms

of governmental experience there would be many others. One of them is Simpson, the veteran and respected legislator against whom Andrew is running.

Brian A. Howey, Indianapolis Eye - Since Attorney General John Ashcroft took office, one of his primary objectives has been to prosecute ... pornography. It's something he and many other Americans consider to be repugnant. It's a multi-billion industry propelled by millions of Americans in the pursuit of their defined happiness. But there is so much more to do than another attempt at "defining" obscenity. Twice since 2001, Ashcroft's Justice Department finds itself derailed on its assault on pornography by the realities of an insecure, fast-paced world. The first was Sept. 11. And the second was last week's cyber attacks, the Sept. 11 of the Internet. Both instances of terrorism represent a threat that is a quantum leap in importance above smut peddling. It's kind of funny to think of young Jeff Parsons as a bin Laden terror pilot of the Internet. His mother, Rita Parsons, calls him a "B-student, not brilliant, but a responsible kid." Well, that "responsible kid" just helped create a billion dollars of damage, and threatens an entire communications system. Ashcroft's Justice Department should be pursuing these cyber creeps and punishing them with stiff prison sentences, big fines, and lengthy probations that require fat little hands smudged with Cheetos to be kept away from keyboards for decades. It won't end the mayhem, but the word will get out and at least some of them will reconsider their actions. The U.S. Justice Department can begin by shackling Jeff Parsons and finding his hacker colleagues a nice, cool place to chill for the next decade. Otherwise, one of the great innovations since the creation of the wheel will remain an endangered species. ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

A palpable paranoia

INDIANAPOLIS - We're seeing it every week now. Democratic Indiana House members are becoming increasingly fearful of the 2002 tax restructuring bill that has spiked property tax rates in a number of cities. So are Republicans.

This week, it was Michigan City Democratic Rep. Scott Pelath and Gov. Frank O'Bannon was his target.

"As ducks go, he is not only lame but apparently has slipped into a coma," Pelath told Mike Smith of the Associated Press on Tuesday. "I feel like the state has been led into battle, and the commander has left the field. He needs to get back in the fight, and he needs to be the type of leader that was twice elected."

In August, it was State Rep. Chet Dobis who chastised the Merrillville Town Council for seeking increases in the tax rate for several projects Dobis deemed unessential. "We both know that a bond issue is just another way of saying tax increase!" wrote an animated Dobis. "It is not the State of Indiana that raises property taxes, it is the local units of government like yours. I plead with you to stop this nonsense now!"

Late last month, State Rep. Ron Herrell, joined by three Republican legislators, turned up at a Howard County Council meeting in Kokomo as that body grappled with skyrocketing costs. Earlier this week, it was Republican Sen. David Long, R-Fort Wayne, who monitored the Allen County Council -- dominated by Republicans -- who are faced with passing significant tax hikes due to jail costs, reimbursing the state for juvenile incarcerations to the tune of \$7.5 million this year, and more state mandated pay for probation officers. "It's a broken system," said Sen. Long (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "In Allen County, we are absolutely melting down."

Legislators are now watching local government with the eyes of hawks, fearful that what they do will increase property taxes. In Indianapolis, that type of dynamic produced crowds of hundreds of angry taxpayers at town hall meetings looking to throw the bums out. What legislators fear is that anger may be deflected by mayors and city council candidates this year, and to them in 2004.

The Associated Press account told of Pelath being summoned to the governor's office last year. "At the time, I had the specific understanding that you would take the lead in defending actions to blunt the effects of the court-ordered reassessment," Pelath said in the letter to O'Bannon. "Such intentions remain clearly unfulfilled." He said when House Republicans conducted a recent news conference to demand that additional steps be taken to help homeowners, O'Bannon should have reminded the public "of the obstructionist role many House GOP leaders played during the tax-reform debate. Instead, I read only a meek and apologetic response from your underlings."

On Wednesday, the House Minority Leader did an in-your-face second call for O'Bannon to intervene. O'Bannon spokeswoman Mary Dieter said, "Property taxes are high on his radar screen, but he believes it is inappropriate to act when we have so little information."

Then there's Johnson County where resides the real linchpin in the challenged seat of Sen. Larry Borst. The more heat Borst feels, the more likely a 2004 remedy will take shape in the legislature. The *Indianapolis Star* reported in a glass-half-full story, that 64 percent of homeowners there saw property taxes decline.

But that means 36 percent -- 12,635 households -- saw property taxes increase, on top of the sales, gas and cigarette taxes. That's room for a spin. ❖

TICKER T A P E

Todd Rokita submitted the Indiana State Election Plan to the Federal Election Assistance Commission, paving the way for Indiana to receive up to \$58 million dollars in federal funding to replace outdated voting equipment and improve election administration (HPR). "Once approved the State Election plan will serve as the framework for implementing landmark voting reforms in Indiana and reimbursing counties for voting machine purchases," Rokita said. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), passed by Congress and signed into law by the president, promises federal funding for states to implement a number of election reforms. Indiana has already received initial payments totaling \$15 million from the federal government to improve election administration and reimburse counties for voting machine purchases. Rokita estimates that Indiana could receive more than \$58 million in federal dollars over the next several years, depending on funding levels approved by Congress.

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