



Nuance of war in 'no man's land'

Rep. Souder is skeptical Iraq troop surge will work as British pull out

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The tip-off for U.S. Rep. Mark Souder that the situation in Iraq is vastly different than what President Bush and Vice President Cheney are telling the American people came with contrasting journeys to the war zone in January 2004 and March 2006.

On his first trip, he could move around. Security wasn't intense. But on his second journey, he was told to wear a flak jacket and more travel restrictions were in place.

"Last March and April, it was clear it was deteriorating," Souder said last Friday as the House prepared to pass the non-binding resolution against President Bush's troop surge. "You could tell by the amount of body armor they were making us wear. We weren't allowed outside the Green Zone. It was clear it was a mess. It's a civil war. Always been a civil war. It's at a higher level now."



U.S. Rep. Mark Souder with American troops in Iraq in 2004 when he didn't have to wear a flak jacket. Below, a Baghdad bombing scene.



Souder voted against the non-binding resolution, but not before registering some wrenching caveats.

"No congressional decision is more difficult than a vote related to war, and this vote is no different," Souder

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Delta House at the party?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - For anyone who was in the cavernous Indiana Convention Center back in June 1992 to witness the glare Gov. Evan Bayh shot in the direction of Dwayne Brown, who was still campaigning for attorney general on the convention floor during the keynote, it was one of those unforgettable moments. Bayh and his chief of staff, Tom Sugar, may not be control freaks, but they don't like political surprises.



Brian Howey's Column

Which makes the antics of the Indiana Democratic Party thoroughly odd, strange, mysterious and out'



"I don't know. The answer is probably yes, but I'm trying to discipline myself and not think about it until we get the General Assembly over with." - **Gov. Mitch Daniels, answering if he will seek re-election (Angola Herald-Republican)**



of character. Since Bayh became the party's premier personality in 1988, he has had an iron grip on the IDP. No chairman ascended that didn't have his blessing.

Certainly Bayh is in full control of the party now. Isn't he? His trusted aide, Dan Parker, is chairman. His former fund raiser, Mike Edmondson, is executive director. A very influential Democrat told me this week, "Nobody passes gas at state party without Sugar approving it and don't let anybody tell you otherwise."

So, everything should be cruising quietly along toward the veepstakes, right? Well, not quite.

This week, we learned that the party's controller, Kim Bostic, will likely face D Felony theft charges for allegedly rolling up \$90,000 on a party credit card, including \$73,000 for her personal use.

Then there's the party "Communications Director" Jennifer Wagner, who instead of updating the party's website (as of this morning, it's still announcing 2006 election night plans on the homepage), developing a message, keeping regular contact with the activists, and building relationships with the news media, has been spewing and ranting on her blog.

She earned a rebuke from **Indianapolis Star** columnist Matt Tully, who wrote of Wagner on his blog last week: "She was mad that I had recently referred to the blog she operates as the Indiana Democratic Party's blog. (She was so mad that she e-mailed me and my boss -- and, I think, even my mom.) Now why would I have called the blog the work of the Indiana Democratic Party? Because that's what it is. Because Wagner has said many times that the party hired her because of her work on the blog, which she uses as part of her communications strategy — and which she works on from her office at the party's headquarters. So I have and will continue to call the blog the Indiana Democratic Party's blog."

Tully said the IDP designation "was not a slip. It was a very

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conscious decision. But it's also easy to see why the party would want to distance itself from the blog, and why it keeps a phony wall of separation around it. While entertaining, the blog takes partisan cheap shots to a new level. Democratic Party officials want us all to believe the blog is a separate entity. That way, they can benefit from the trashing of the opposition while avoiding any public responsibility for what is said."

The blog is a beehive for cowards who like to spout off without their names appearing to back up what they say.

On Tuesday, when I called to get a comment on the embezzlement from Chairman Parker, the conversation quickly turned to Wagner, perhaps an easier topic. Parker repeatedly insisted that Taking Down Words "is not a Democratic Party blog."

But she's the IDP's communications director. Let me put it like this: If Tully or I were to go on, say, the "Stan Solomon Show" after business hours and used slurs and slanderous comments against minorities, we'd pay a professional price.

This past week, I've talked to a number of Democratic leaders around the state about what's going on at the State Party. I'm trying to figure out the communications strategy. To which more than one responded, "I don't think there is a strategy."

Blogs will not win elections, as Judi Anderson, Joe Pearson, Michael

Griffin, Myron Sutton and Ed Mahern will attest. That \$90,000 could have come in handy last October.

On election eve, I know of dozens of Republicans and Democrats who thought Pat Bauer would end up with a 54 or 55 seat House majority, instead of the bare minimal 51 he got during a significant national Democratic wave. Before the election if you would have said the Dems would pick up three congressional seats, I could have made a logical guess that twice as many legislative seats should have followed.

Since then, the assaults from the party continue. The phones don't get answered. Media calls and e-mails aren't returned. Little detailed analysis as to why privatization is as bad as the party says it is.

Over at the House, Democrats just stripped out the funding for the 21st Century fund, a pet program of Govs. Frank O'Bannon and Joe Kernan. Bauer couldn't hold the party line on his own property tax plan.

Is this the Delta House? Or a Delta House party with togas and thongs?

This is not the firm, purring machine guys named Sugar and Bayh envision at the party they are ultimately responsible for. It's shocking that on the ramp up to the veepstakes, Evan Bayh, who talks the need for "civility" in Washington, would allow his own beloved Indiana Democrats to become so undisciplined. ❖



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said on the House floor. "It is especially difficult when you disagree with a President from your own political party. The fact is, while I do not believe that the surge will succeed, none of us knows that it will not work. At this point, it seems to me that our position as a Congress should be to encourage success in this mission. We need to support the Iraqis as they take increasing responsibility. What the world should see from us is at least shared hope for victory – not defeatism."

Then came the questions from the six-term Republican from Fort Wayne. "The President also said, that unlike past efforts, this time we will hold our gains. With whom? With what?" Souder asked four days before the British and Danes announced they were beginning to pull out their troops out. "Will we need tens of thousands of additional soldiers to hold any gains? The obvious premise offered by the President is that the Iraqis themselves can hold the gains. Based upon everything we have seen to date, other than in isolated cases, there is no evidence that the Iraqis will fight and die to defend their central government. I have repeatedly heard from returning soldiers that, when the gunfire starts, the Iraqis by and large disappear. They only seem dedicated when Shia get to kill Sunnis and vice versa.

"But," Souder said, "the President does need to understand that opposition to the surge is not just among Democrats, it is even among his strongest supporters."

Souder told HPR, "I have deep, deep concerns about how the war was run. They should have parted with Rumsfeld two years ago. He should have hired Coats at the beginning," he said of his former boss, former U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, who was an early frontrunner to become Secretary of Defense.

As Bob Woodward wrote in his book "State of Denial," Coats had not been impressive in his interview with Bush and Cheney. "Coats knew the top generals mostly from a distance and was lukewarm on the national missile defense system that Bush had promised in the campaign," Woodward wrote. "He had never run a large organization and he acknowledged he would need a strong, experienced number two at the Pentagon. It wouldn't work. (Bush) needed a secretary of defense with more stature, grit and experience."

"What about Donald Rumsfeld?" Cheney suggested.

HPR's analysis of Souder's political situation is that after experiencing his closest race (54-46 percent over Fort Wayne Councilman Tom Hayhurst) last November, he has taken a more cautious approach to the war than U.S. Reps. Mike Pence, Dan Burton and Steve Buyer, who represent overwhelmingly Republican districts.

The political situation concerning Rep. Burton abruptly changed Tuesday when Republican John McGoff announced a primary challenge. With that challenge, Indiana could see as many as five or six Congressional districts in play in the 2008 primary and general elections.

Souder didn't dispute HPR's political analysis, that if the

U.S. position in Iraq continues to deteriorate, he could find himself in an intense situation in 2008. Third District Democrats are hoping that Hayhurst attempts a rematch. Hayhurst is not seeking re-election to the Fort Wayne Council and passed on a run for mayor. He raised more than \$250,000 in 2006.

While Indiana's 2nd, 8th and 9th Districts have long been on the national radar screen, the 3rd CD slipped into the mix last September and October when Hayhurst posted the best fundraising efforts since Souder defeated U.S. Rep. Jill Long in the 1994 GOP tsunami. Indiana Democrats pumped \$40,000 of late money, but by that time, Souder's intense command of the district allowed him to pull out the 8 percent victory.

In a normal presidential year, a 3rd CD Republican could expect to have more of a tailwind. But that could change if the Bush-Cheney prosecution of the war continues to falter. "This is a political no man's land," Souder acknowledged about the Iraq War.

"For me, it's been a long evolution," Souder said Friday. "My motivation isn't political. It's very nuanced. It's been problematic for me."

Souder said he knew the political situation was shifting when he and U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola had Republican primary opponents who each polled 30 percent of the vote in 2006.

"Things are so polarized now," Souder said. "There's no middle ground. I'm trying to stake out somewhat of a middle ground. The surge might work, but it



U.S. Rep. Mark Souder with Iraq ambassador L. Paul Bremer during his trip to Baghdad in January 2004. (Photo courtesy of Rep. Souder)



probably won't. It's not whether you can clear out a neighborhood. We can clear any place. But how do you hold?

"There will probably be a total withdrawal and Bush will try and blame it on the Democrats," Souder said. "There could be a light partition. Pull back to the borders, to Prince Sultan AFB, and guard the borders. That may be the Republican position by December."

On the House floor last Friday, Souder explained, "I voted to support this war because I believe Iraq presented a direct threat to the United States. Iraq had, was developing, and was attempting to develop weapons of mass destruction. Iraq was, at a minimum, cooperating with the funding and harboring of terrorists committed to our destruction. Saddam Hussein was repeatedly defying UN resolutions, contesting no-fly zones, and blocking WMD inspectors."

Souder continued, "I stated from the beginning that, after removing the direct threat posed by the Saddam regime, it would be in our national security interest if a re-

publican form of government, a unity government respecting the rights of others, could be established in Iraq. If this government of diverse Iraqis could prevail, it would be a model for the entire region. We needed to give them a chance for self-governance. But -- and this is a big qualifier -- it would ultimately be their decision, not ours."

Souder said the U.S. "cannot sustain this intense an effort indefinitely. Complete victory over terrorism is unlikely ever to occur. Sometimes you have to reposition and prepare for the broader battle, not exhaust yourself on just one front and then risk defeat in the overall conflict."

He ended his floor speech by saying, "I beseech our President, Secretary Gates, Secretary Rice and others never to give up the War on Terror but to understand that, without significant tactical drawdowns in Iraq, our entire counterterrorism and military efforts are threatened. Our nation can ill-afford another decade of defeatism and retreat that seized the United States after Vietnam." ❖

Pence finds peace protest; Burton sees a 'world war'

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

About 20 peace protesters ringed the office of U.S. Rep. Mike Pence in Muncie on Wednesday. "We want to keep the pressure on him, and we are not going away," Jennifer Rice-Snow, leading the protest, told Rick Yencer of the **Muncie Star Press**. "The first step is to stop the escalation and then work to bring the troops home."

Pence stopped by later. His office staff talked to the demonstrators, took letters and statements and informed them of a Pence town hall meeting in Anderson on Friday. "I have made it clear that I support the surge and the President's new strategy," said Pence, who voted against the non-binding resolution opposing the troop increase. "The truth is we must fight and win a victory for freedom in Iraq."

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, who learned he would have a primary challenge this week, said on the House floor last week, "When I knew this debate was going to take place, I went back and started having my staff go through all the newspapers they could find prior to World War II criticizing Winston Churchill for his stand against Hitler and the buildup in violation of the Treaty of Versailles of Nazi Germany, and nobody listened. And as a result of nobody listening, 62 million people died. Not 1,000, not 10,000;

62 million people died. ... He was maligned; he was criticized. They said he should be run out of Parliament. And, of course, once the war started, he became prime minister and one of the greatest men of the 20th century."

Burton continued: "We are in a world war now against terrorism. I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said this isn't a world war, this is a civil war. But if you look at the record, since 1983, there have been numerous attacks, numerous attacks, on the West. There have been attacks at the World Trade Center in 1993. There were attacks in 1994; the Khobar Towers in 1996; the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998; USS Cole in 2000; the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks which brought this country into the war; the London bombings in 2005; and countless other attacks. This is not confined just to the Middle East. These people want to spread their venom throughout the



world.

"Now," Burton said, "if we pull out of Iraq, what does that do? Everybody knows right now that the president of Iran wants to expand his sphere of influence. He is sending terrorists across the border from Iran into Iraq. If we start pulling out and looking like we are turning tail and running, we are likely to be in another huge war in the years to come. I don't know whether it will be two years, five years or 10 years or quicker than that. But if they develop a nuclear weapon, and they see that we are weak, and we are pulling out, they are going to push, and they will push until we have to go into a war that is much greater than what we face today." ❖



Two Hoosier Democrats approach Iraq funding question cautiously

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

WASHINGTON - Each new Democratic member of Indiana's U.S. House delegation voted in favor of a non-binding resolution last week rebuking President Bush on his handling of the Iraq war and his decision to send 21,500 more troops to the country.

But it is possible that as the Iraq debate moves to the question of funding, Reps. Joe Donnelly (2nd CD), Brad Ellsworth (8th CD) and Baron Hill (9th CD) may head in different directions.

Their Democratic colleague, Rep. John Murtha of Pennsylvania, has said that he will attach restrictions to President Bush's request for \$100 billion in emergency Iraq funding. Murtha is chairman of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee and a key ally of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Last week, in a conference call with Indiana reporters, Donnelly said he would not support adding conditions to Iraq spending bills. "I will be voting for full funding in future supplementals," he said. "I will provide funding in every way, shape and form."

Ellsworth and Hill have not taken a stance on funding conditions, according to their respective spokeswomen.

"The last time Baron spoke with Mr. Murtha, Congressman Murtha was still kicking around some different plans and had not decided on one particular proposal yet," Katie Moreau, Hill's press secretary, said in an e-mail interview. "So, Baron will need to review the proposal before making any statements on it or decisions about it."

Ellsworth also is approaching Murtha's proposal cautiously. "He hasn't seen it," said Liz Farrar, Ellsworth's press secretary. "He doesn't have a position one way or another until he has a chance to look at it."

But Hill and Ellsworth also stress that they support funding the troops, an issue that could become volatile if Republicans use appropriations votes to attack Democrats in the next election.

"Baron has said publicly that he cannot, in good conscience, cut funding for troops that are already stationed in Iraq," Moreau said.

Hill is a co-sponsor of an Iraq cost accountability

bill that would create a commission to oversee war spending and force Bush to seek funds through the regular appropriations process.

Ellsworth told HPR, as he headed for a town hall meeting in Terre Haute on Wednesday, that he has witnessed "a wide array of emotions."

Some are saying stay put, Ellsworth said. "Others are saying, 'Get our boys out.'" He asked for a show of hands at one town hall at a Montana Steakhouse in Vincennes, saying, "How many people think we should get out?"

"An overwhelming majority raised their hands," Ellsworth said. "Others disagree, saying if we get out, it will make matters worse. And you can see the look in their eyes. They want to win, but they don't know the answers."

Ellsworth won't abandon troops already in Iraq, Farrar said. "He's committed to ensuring that the troops on the ground get what they need in terms of equipment and resources to do their jobs and come home safely," she said.

As they travel their districts, each congressman is noticing a high level of angst about Iraq from his constituents.

"What I've heard is that our troops should not be placed in what has become an increasingly dangerous Iraqi civil war," Donnelly said. "I would be for the surge, if I thought it would increase our chances for success in Iraq."

At Ellsworth's events around the district, "there's a general frustration," about Iraq, Farrar said. "People see the body count rising; (they're) looking for a new direction."

Moreau, who has been traveling with Hill, said, "People are very concerned, frustrated and confused. Most seem in support of Baron's vote on the Iraq resolution expressing the Congress' disagreement with the President's plan to increase troop size in Iraq. But, they often follow up to that question by asking what Congress is going to do next."

One step Congress should not take is setting a timetable for U.S. withdrawal, according to Donnelly.

"I don't think it helps our efforts to try to set artificial deadlines," he said.

All three Democrats have been in sync on calling for the Iraqi government and Shia and Sunni factions within the country to take more responsibility for ending sectarian violence. That argument draws nods in town hall meetings.

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U.S. Reps. Baron Hill and Joe Donnelly



Dr. McGoff makes a surprising challenge to Rep. Burton

INDIANAPOLIS - In June 2002, HPR surveyed the roster of Republican secretary of state candidates and noted: "A new wave of talent is seeking to break through to the next level, giving the party new life, new blood, stating an appetite, outlining goals and dreams, and demonstrating how to make it happen while going to great lengths to get it done."

Dr. John McGoff was seeking a convention floor nomination, eventually won on third ballot by Todd Rokita, over Richard Mourdock and Mike Delph. Three of them have since gone on to win office. On Tuesday, McGoff surprised people by announcing he would challenge U.S. Rep. Dan Burton in the May 2008 Republican primary.

McGoff served two terms as Marion County coroner. In the 2002 race, he raised more than \$91,000, attained the endorsements of Govs. Doc Bowen and Edgar Whitcomb, as well as from Sens. Larry Borst, Marvin Riegsecker, Mike Young, and Reps. Mike Murphy, Tim Neese and John Keeler.

McGoff finished fourth on the first ballot after Marion County Sheriff Jack Cottey and Tom Schneider bolted and the Marion County delegation slipped into chaos.

Five years later, and one day after he announced his challenge to Burton, McGoff stopped by the HPR offices near Broad Ripple Park for this interview.

HPR: I have to give you some political credit for using the speculation on a challenge to Mayor Peterson and instead redirecting that attention to the 5th CD. How did this come about?

McGoff: I'd been the elected county coroner here for two terms. I've been out of office the last couple of years. I wanted to get back into public service and people started approaching me about the mayoral race.



I was humbled and flattered that people would consider me as a mayoral candidate. As I went around and talked to folks, I kept hearing how "Bart's bad" and "Bart's got problems with infrastructure" but "we really need a new congressional representative in the 5th District." People I talked to said, "You'd be great at that. You've got a background as an emergency physician. You're a 25-year veteran in the military. Would you ever consider that?" At the end of the day, I sat down with pen and paper and determined I could really serve the people better in Congress. We need to restore integrity and trust and that's why I'm running for Congress.

HPR: What about the mayoral race? What was the final determinate factor that kept you from running?

McGoff: Both the mayor and Congressman Burton are incumbents. They have a lot of money. But that didn't dissuade me. I thought there were a lot of issues with the mayor and there still are. This is really better suited to me for what my skills are. I don't think I'd be good at filling potholes and those kind of things.

HPR: How much does Burton have on hand right now?

McGoff: Over \$700,000.

HPR: I'm surprised it's that low. How do you overcome that?

McGoff: Money is great, but grassroots win elections first and foremost. I've gone around the district and listened to people and he's out of touch with the rank and file. He's not gone to district meetings. He's not kept up with people. That's how you win elections. Sure, the money is great, it helps you build your campaign infrastructure. It helps you get out your message. I think I can raise a lot of money. And I've gotten a number of calls from Democrats who are not only going to cross over, but they're going to write me checks.

HPR: What kind of contact have you had with people you've got to go see in Washington?

McGoff: Very positive. It's pretty interesting that even out in Washington, he's not as popular as you might think. His voting record and lack of attendance have not played well out there. The



Dr. John McGoff at the HPR offices on Wednesday. He said he noted a blogger had called him "elitist" after he announced his run against Burton. McGoff said that during his last shift in the emergency room at Community Hospital, a female stroke victim had vomited the chicken noodle soup she had eaten shortly before her crisis. "How's that for elite?" McGoff asked. (HPR Photos by Brian A. Howey)



people I've called in DC were very supportive. My voting record and [Burton's] will probably look very similar. The only difference is that I'm going to show up and vote.

HPR: Do you expect others to get into this primary?

McGoff: I've heard of no other names. That's kind of an old trick in some campaigns, loading up the primary with people whose last names begin with B and M. I don't think that will happen. If there are others interested in running for this office, that's great. That's what makes it a race. I stepped up and was the first one to rise to the challenge that we need a change in the 5th District.

HPR: You made a credible run in 2002 for secretary of state. How will that help you in this campaign?

McGoff: That was a great race. I went to all 92 counties. I met lots of people. I traveled around the state and when you get out and meet Republicans from all walks of life, it's one of the most fun things you can do. I established some great friendships and many are in the same counties that make up the 5th District. My 2002 race taught me about discipline, how to get out and travel around the state and more than anything, there are going to be some

good Republicans who will be very supportive.

HPR: In that 2002 race, everybody - Secretary of State Rokita, Treasurer Mourdock, and Sen. Delph - have all moved up.

McGoff: That's true. I haven't talked to Todd or Richard or Mike just yet, but I'd love to have their support. They've all landed with something and so maybe this will work out for me.



U.S. Rep. Dan Burton (right) with protege State Sen. Mike Delph last year. Burton welcomed the "ambitious" McGoff to the race. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

HPR: And where does this leave Indianapolis Republicans? With Bob Parker?

McGoff: I've met Bob before and I think he can become a credible candidate. He hasn't done the things that I've done, you know, coming up through the ranks as a precinct committeeman. There are a lot of problems. There are some checks coming due in the next administration and we need to hold his feet to the fire. Crumbling infrastructure, crime. It's all there. It's all a matter of somebody exposing it. ❖

2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels. Democrat: Senate Minority Leader Richard Young, Jim Schellinger. **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 Results: Daniels (R) 1,302,912, Kernan (D) 1,113,900, Gividen (L) 31,644. **2008 Fore-**

cast: With Mayor **Bart Peterson** officially saying yes to a third term and no to a 2008 gubernatorial bid, it didn't take much time for some new wrinkles in the Democratic field. CSO SchenkelShultz CEO **Jim Schellinger** is exploring entry into this race. He had a Statehouse meeting with Sen. **Richard Young** on Tuesday. Some influential Democrats tell HPR that he will run and have been quick to paint him as the emerging frontrunner. "I think he will end up with some pretty solid support," said St. Joseph County Chairman **Butch Morgan**. He is seeking the support of Mayor Peterson, Sen. **Evan Bayh**, U.S. Rep. **Julia Carson** and former Gov. **Joe Kernan**. Morgan said that Schellinger, a native of South Bend, will likely get Kernan's support. "He's piecing it together so he'll have that support," Morgan said. CSO SchenkelShultz is an architectural firm developing civic projects, education facilities (K-12 and higher education), corporate headquarters and office structures, corporate interiors, justice applications and aviation facilities. CSO and SchenkelShultz, which merged under Schellinger's leadership in 2005, both have long established histories in Indiana; the companies were founded in 1961 and 1958 respectively. Schellinger, who joined the firm in 1987, is a registered architect with 20 years of experience in programming, planning, project management, design and construction. Former House Speaker **John Gregg** reacted to news that Schellinger is considering a run for governor by saying, "Jim is the 800-pound gorilla now that Bart is out. He brings a unique perspective given his success in business. He has a lot of contacts and the ability to raise money. . . . I'm going to be encouraging him to do it. I've got to be candid. His decision would make mine a lot easier." Some Democrats were saying that if Schellinger prevails, he would probably look for a Southern Indiana running mate. Now, who might fit that bill? Young's website - **www.youngforgovernor.com** - is up on the Internet. Gov. Mitch Daniels has been touring kindergartens on both ends of the state this week, from Angola to Utica. **Status:** LEANS DANIELS. ❖



Schellinger



Parker to run in Indianapolis, Henry emerges in the Fort

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Challengers in two of the big three Indiana cities either have or will emerge as the clock steadily clicks toward Friday's filing deadline.

Indianapolis businessman Bob Parker is expected to file paperwork today and formally announce tomorrow that he is running for Mayor of Indianapolis (**Abdul Hakim-Shabazz, WXNT**). Parker is a millionaire. And while GOP sources aren't saying what he will spend on the mayor's race, they say he can be financially competitive with Peterson who has at least \$2 million in his campaign account.

Parker owns Parker Machinery, a company that works with factory equipment. Darrell Morris has also filed for the GOP.

His candidacy began the day with some strange controversy. **Indianapolis Star** columnist Matt Tully quoted Parker saying, "I personally see Israel going into Iran and Syria in the next couple of months. I'm sure you realize -- well, most people don't -- millionaire Democrats outnumber millionaire Republicans about four to one. It's mainly because of the wealthy Jewish faction inside the Democratic Party. Most Jewish people are Democrats and they bring that wealth. My opinion is, if Israel would go into Iran, Democrats will follow that cause. I really do believe that."

Peterson filed for a third-term this morning. The backdrop for today's 5:30 p.m. announcement will be the Jubilee Center in one of the crown jewel neighborhoods of his tenure - the Fall Creek renewal area which a decade ago was a crack cocaine center known as "Dodge City."

Henry emerges in Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne Democrats hit a 9th inning home run when they convinced former councilman Tom Henry to enter the race. Henry's emergence is about as good of a scenario for Summit City Democrats. He was prepared for a 1999 run before stepping aside for Mayor Graham Richard.

Henry compiled a stellar 20-year career on the city council, where he served with Senate President Pro Tempore David Long. His council career came to an end when he was upset by Tom Didier in 2003. But Henry is respected in both parties, is adept at retail politics, and will give Fort Wayne Democrats at least a fighting chance to retain the

mayor's office.

"We need to have a leader in our city with the ability to not only take calculated risks, but also to see the decisions through to the end," Henry said with Mayor Richard watching in the wings. "With your help, we can make a difference."

Henry promised to continue some of Richard's programs, including the Six Sigma efficiency program.

Despite Henry's resume, Democrats face a daunting challenge now that extremely-Republican Aboite Township will be voting in its first mayor's race. The aggressive annexation that began in the early 1990s under Republican Mayor Paul Helmke, now makes Indiana's second largest city as tough a challenge for Democrats as Indianapolis has become for Republicans.

Steve Shine, Allen County Republican chairman, said Henry's name recognition will make his late filing a non-issue (**Lanka, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Shine added, however, that Henry's last two campaign results aren't the best starting point for a mayoral candidacy.

Henry earned 55 percent of the vote in 1999 by defeating Republican Laura Lee Waterman. The race was a rematch from 1995 when Henry won by fewer than 10 votes after a recount. Henry lost his re-election bid for the 3rd District seat in 2003 to Republican Councilman Tom Didier, who was running his first campaign.

Henry will face two gadfly candidates - Tom Cook and Fred Steinke - in the May primary.

Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters and architect Matt Kelty are the major candidates who have filed for mayor as Republicans.

Weinzapfel may get a pass

Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel is about 24 hours away from getting a pass. There are no credible, party-backed Republicans who have filed and party officials indicated last week the chances for a major party-backed candidate were "slim and none."

Butterfield won't run in Valpo

Former Valparaiso Mayor David Butterfield announced he will not have a third race with Mayor Jon Costas (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). Costas is facing a primary election challenge from Councilman Robert McCasland, but there is no Democrat. Butterfield defeated Costas in 1999 but lost in 2003 when he was out-spent 3-to-1. ❖



Indianapolis Republican Bob Parker, shown here during the 2003 mayoral race, is expected to file today. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



What's the truth about jobs in Indiana?

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - What is the truth about jobs in Indiana?

It seems that I have to write this column every year. Our elected leaders and their appointees are once again telling us how many jobs they have brought to us through their superlative efforts. Have pity on them. They know what they are doing, but they don't know what's going on.

Yet, you and I will go to the polls and judge them based on the number of jobs they bring to the city, county, or the state when we vote in 2007 and 2008.

In a nation where we believe that jobs are so important as a measure of economic well-being, we devote a great deal of resources to finding out how many jobs are being filled and how many people are working. Oops. That's two different things. The number of jobs is probably greater than the number of people working because a person may hold more than one job. The federal government pays the states to collect some data on employment and it collects some data on its own. Some data are collected monthly and other data are collected quarterly. Some data are collected from businesses and some from households. As you might imagine, the result is a batch of differing numbers that do not provide a definitive view of economic performance.



How is Indiana doing? If we look at the number of people who say they are working, 2006 may have been a banner year. Early results suggest that 61,800 (+2%) more people had jobs in '06 than in '05. That is the biggest numeric increase since 1995. Wow. Can you guess who is going to take credit for that? But hold on until the 2006 data are revised before breaking out any champagne.

If, however, we look at the number of jobs reported by employers (rather than the number of persons saying they are employed) we find an increase in 2006 of only 20,800 jobs (0.7%) over 2005. Pending a massive upward revision of the numbers for 2006, that's a bummer. Who's going to get blamed for that?

There are technical reasons for a difference between the number of jobs and the number of persons employed. For example, some people are self-employed or

work in firms too small to be included in the monthly survey of jobs. But the difference between a change of nearly 62,000 in one series and nearly 21,000 in another may be hard to explain to an impatient and skeptical public.

There is a fascinating new series available thanks to cooperation between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development and the U.S. Bureau of Census and Labor Statistics. The Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) tell us, by state and county, how many jobs have been added and lost during each three month period. Jobs are added by new jobs being created and firms hiring people to fill existing jobs. Jobs are lost when workers are dismissed or leave for other reasons.

These are numbers based on actual behavior. They are not the promises (or lies) of press releases issued by governments or firms. But these numbers are far behind the times. Washington, West Virginia, and Iowa are among the states with data on-line for the first quarter of 2006. Illinois, Kentucky, California, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania are among the states that have their data in for the last quarter of 2005. As usual in such matters, Indiana is among the laggards with our latest data coming up to just the third quarter of 2005.

When we look at the Indiana QWI data for the year ending in the third quarter of 2005, it appears that we added just 10,000 jobs from the same period a year earlier. A poor record.

But the data are not easy to understand. They tell us that the state had 153,300 jobs created by new firms or firms expanding employment. The total number of persons leaving jobs because they quit or were let go for some reason was 548,200 and the number of persons hired for existing jobs was 463,500. The difference is 84,700 more than simple churning of employees.

What happened to these 84,700? Did they retire or are they among the unemployed? It's easy to think that they were fully accommodated by the new jobs created (153,300). But the data are dealing with jobs and not numbers of people. Since people may hold more than one job, it's difficult to get a real grasp what's happening. Maybe some part-time workers are being replaced by full-time workers. Or are former full-time workers getting jobs as part-time workers in new and expanding firms?

Until we know how to read this new QWI series, I hope that politicians will not cite these data as proof of their economic virility. ❖

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THE BOAR'S NEST

Ellsworth's 24 town halls

U.S. Rep. **Brad Ellsworth** got a week off for Presidents Day. So what did he do? He scheduled 24 town halls around the 8th CD. He called HPR from near Terre Haute on Wednesday, which was a startling development (i.e. an 8th District congressman voluntarily calling a journalist).

"People are talking about the war, immigration, health care," Ellsworth said. "They are concerned about waste, fraud and abuse in Washington."



U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth (left) is not ready to commit to his campaign buddy, Sen. Barack Obama. (HPR Photo)

Since it was close to Presidents Day, we asked who he was supporting for president in '08. "I really don't know," Ellsworth said. "I've met **Barack Obama**. I've not yet met **Sen. Clinton** or any of the others, except for **Duncan Hunter** and **Dennis Kucinich** in the House. We're staying so busy it's way too early to commit. I'm still in mourning that Sen. Bayh pulled out."

Don't count on a challenger for Julia

The burning question we had for Marion County Democratic Chairman **Mike O'Connor** over a lunch of clam chowder and burgers at the Golden Ace Tuesday was whether U.S. Rep. **Julia Carson** would have to fend off a Democratic challenger in the May 2008 primary. It was a relevant question given that **Dr. John McGoff** had surprised people with his challenge to U.S. Rep. **Dan Burton** earlier that morning. O'Connor answered, "This party owes so much to Julia Carson. There will be no credible chal-

lenge in the primary."

McCain announces Mitch support

U.S. Senator **John McCain's** presidential exploratory committee today announced that Indiana Gov. **Mitch Daniels** will support the Arizona Senator should he decide to seek the presidency. Gov. Daniels explained his respect for Senator McCain's leadership. "John McCain is a longtime friend. More importantly, he is a principled leader with a history of integrity, opposing excessive government spending, and dealing honestly with the American people," said Daniels. "The term 'great American' applies to very few people, but it indisputably fits John McCain."

McCain said that having the support of Governor Daniels will be an incredible asset. "Mitch is an impressive businessman and public servant who understands that common sense conservative principles and more effective government go hand-in-hand," Sen. McCain said. "Having the support of Mitch Daniels is important and I look forward to honoring our common values as I move ahead in this process."

Bulldog mania

With the Indiana Pacers in a perpetual perp walk, the **Butler Bulldogs** have become the team du jour in Indianapolis. Walking into Hinkle Fieldhouse for last Saturday's classic game against 16th ranked Southern Illinois, we found Deputy Mayor **Steve Campbell** awaiting Mayor **Bart Peterson**. And leaving after SUI's 68-64 victory through the doors on the northwest side, we came face to face with Gov. **Mitch Daniels**, who offered up some instant analysis and could probably make a decent living as a sports writer some day.

More obscure presidents

For the 11th year, Columbus East High School social studies chairman **Greg Lewis** (left) acted the part of a former commander in chief and visited local schools in honor of Presidents' Day (**Columbus Republic**). Lewis began the day by reporting the weather and lunch menu for Columbus East's televised morning announcements. Republican **Chester A. Arthur** (right) assumed the role of the presidency after the assassination of James Garfield in 1881. ❖



Got a tip for the Boar's Nest? Send it to: brianhowey@howeypolitics.com.



Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal

Gazette - You never hear about backgammon or tennis figuring in a political scandal. If there's a sport, a politician and a negative headline, golf is almost always in the mix. Recent history is replete with pols who found themselves in the rough after a round or two of golf hosted by someone they shouldn't be so cozy with or at a time they should have been tending to the public's business. Rep. Dan Burton, for instance, issued a tepid apology last week after missing a week's worth of votes and committee meetings in Congress because he preferred to keep his tee time at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic in Palm Springs. After refusing newspaper requests for interviews about his whereabouts, Burton went on a Republican-friendly radio show to say he skipped out on 19 votes in January because he'd made plans to play in the pro-am tournament six months ago. That was before Democrats won control of the House and said 2 1/2 -day workweeks and stretched-out vacations were over. "I thought there'd be a few (votes), but I'd already made these plans some time ago," Burton said on WIBC radio in Indianapolis, where he and other Republican officeholders regularly appear. "So I said, 'Well, I'll go ahead and go. If I miss a few votes, that's all right.' " What it was "all right" for Burton to miss were votes on student loans, oil subsidies and whether to deny taxpayer-financed pensions to members of Congress who are convicted of crimes related to their official duties. He also chose golf courses in ritzy Palm Springs over two hearings on Iraq and one on North Korea that were conducted by a committee he serves on. Let's see: Hobnobbing with golf pros and well-heeled amateurs or listening to witnesses discuss a war that has ended more than 3,000 U.S. lives? Guess it was a tough call. ❖

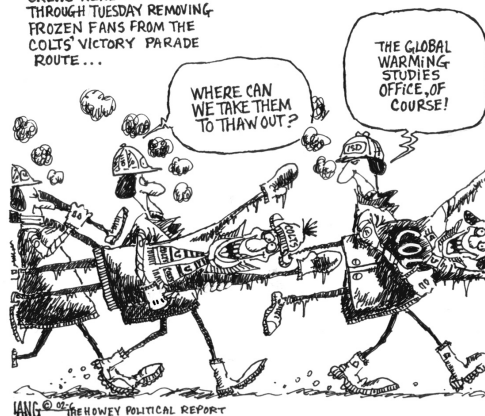
Rich James, Post-Tribune - The nation was at its compassionate best in 1960 when John Fitzgerald Kennedy was elected president of the United States. It was a special time. Many called it Camelot. The Kennedys -- Jack and Jackie and their young children, Caroline and John -- gave the nation something to embrace. They somehow belonged to all of us. The nation needed the Kennedy mystique at the time. Although it only had been 15 years since the troops marched home from World War II to a jubilant nation, the Cold War had the country in its grip. Many thought it was only a question of when -- not if -- Russia would unleash a nuclear bomb on the United States.

But Jack was assassinated less than three years into his term. Jackie and John are gone, too. The nation was about to revisit Camelot in 1968, at a time when U.S. troops were dying in the Tet offensive in Vietnam. Presidential candidate Robert Kennedy, Jack's brother, vowed to stop the insanity in Vietnam. But Camelot never played again, as Bobby was gunned down on the campaign trail. Almost 40 years later, the nation again is in the throes of depression -- torn apart by a war we had no justification in starting. Our soldiers -- some young, some older -- are being sacrificed under the guise of a terrorist threat. A dictatorial president has turned a deaf ear on the

people he is leading to ruin. Wasn't it fitting at the Grammy Awards the other night to see Joan Baez -- the voice of protest during Vietnam -- introduce the Dixie Chicks, a beacon of light for getting out of Iraq? More so than in 1960 and 1968, the country needs another Camelot -- someone to unite and right this misguided nation. Some say Barack Obama, the man who has the audacity to hope, is that person. He may well be. Obama clearly has electrified audiences wherever he's gone. Anyone -- Republican or Democrat -- who wasn't touched by his speech at the 2004 Democratic Convention ought to check for a pulse. Can Obama win? That remains to be decided over the next year. But I do know that if you don't have hope, you don't have much. Bush has done his best to extinguish hope. Obama is trying to give it back. ❖

COLUMNISTS on Indiana

NEWS ITEM:
INDIANAPOLIS STREET DEPT.
CREWS WERE KEPT BUSY
THROUGH TUESDAY REMOVING
FROZEN FANS FROM THE
COLTS' VICTORY PARADE
ROUTE ...



Gary Gerard, Warsaw

Times-Union - Fiscal fiction. That's what always gets tossed around in Washington around budget time. If it wasn't so serious, it would be amusing. The "conservatives" in the W administration seem to be some of the best at crafting fiscal fiction. As the 2,000-plus pages of the 2007 budget -- released early this month -- are scrutinized, more and more of the fiction becomes apparent. It's nice to make the budget appear in balance, even if the administration knows it isn't. Again, if not so tragic, it would be humorous. Here's a quote from the W. It appears on the budget cover letter: "The budget I am presenting achieves balance by 2012." That sounds really good. But the problem is, it is nowhere close to the truth. Not that it couldn't be close to the truth. But given the realities in Washington, I and everybody else even remotely interested knows it isn't true. The budget is so full of half-truths, gimmicks and bogus accounting, there's no way to know for sure how much red ink there will be. But one thing is certain: Red ink there will be. ❖



Citizen suit challenges Rep. Soliday's residency

VALPARAISO - Five voters from Porter and Jasper counties filed suit Wednesday claiming newly elected state Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, does not live within his legislative district as is required by law (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). "Only the state Legislature has the Constitutional authority to redraw its House Districts," according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit before Porter Superior Court Judge Bill Alexa asks the court to replace Soliday with Democratic challenger Sylvia Graham, who he defeated last fall for the two-year term. If that is found to be improper, the group asks that a special election be ordered. "All they're doing is making it more and more difficult for people in Porter County to be represented," he said. State election officials reached a stalemate on the dispute earlier this month along party lines, which left the office unable to offer a solution.



House debates restoring funding for I-69

INDIANAPOLIS - Debate over Interstate 69 kicked into high gear Wednesday when House Democrats reiterated they support building the interstate but wanted more specifics from the Indiana Department of Transportation. So they left \$1.1 billion for I-69 and other highway projects out of their two-year state budget. Democrats stopped an amendment by House Republicans to restore \$1.1 billion from the construction fund to the House Democrats' state budget bill, so the budget now moves to a third reading without any funding for I-69. Debate Wednesday saw Republican Rep. Suzanne Crouch reminding

her colleagues what Democratic House Speaker Patrick Bauer said about I-69 when he met with the **Evansville Courier & Press** editorial board on Sept. 5. From the House microphone, Crouch read aloud from the article quoting Bauer: "I-69 is in good hands and it will go forward." Standing at the speaker's podium behind her, Bauer interjected: "Amen."

Allen County revives tax adjustment board

INDIANAPOLIS - The Allen County Council on Wednesday reinstated a tax oversight board - eliminated more than 20 years ago - to review the total tax burden local residents face (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). The council voted 6-1 to recreate the tax adjustment board. The board will be in effect this year to review the 2008 budgets of all taxing entities in Allen County. The adjustment board will be able to reduce the tax levy of any of those entities, including local school boards, the library board and airport authority.

Anti-annexation bills fail

INDIANAPOLIS - A Senate committee narrowly defeated two bills yesterday that would have granted more rights to property owners who are fighting annexations by nearby cities and towns (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). Opponents said the bills would stunt city growth and economic development, and punish all cities for problems caused by a few. The defeats are a blow to opponents of Jeffersonville's proposal to annex about 3,660 households.

Child/smoke/car bill dies

INDIANAPOLIS - The House rejected legislation yesterday that would ban smoking in passenger vehicles transporting children under age 13 (**Associated Press**). The bill, sponsored by Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, had cleared committee 8-1 but failed 51-43 in the floor vote.

House Democrats add \$100 million to budget

INDIANAPOLIS - House Democrats voted yesterday to add about \$100 million in spending to their proposed two-year, \$26 billion state budget plan (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). But they also rejected numerous proposed changes offered by Republicans, including one that would have allowed \$160 million set aside for phasing in full-day kindergarten to possibly be used for other initiatives, such as professional development for teachers or remediation. Democrats, who control the House, did allow one GOP amendment, providing \$1 million in small-business development grants.

Lake County borrows \$18m

CROWN POINT - Lake County's impending tax crisis already is costing the public. Lake County Commissioners voted Wednesday to borrow \$18.5 million to renovate county government buildings even though the financial markets are demanding the county pay a higher interest rate (**Times**). Jim Bennett, financial adviser to the commissioners, said the loan will cost taxpayers an additional \$100,000 in interest payments during the next decade because Lake County looks riskier to lenders with the threat of the extended 2 percent circuit breaker. "You already are starting to see the impact. As we get closer to (2010) it will get worse," Bennett said.

Abortion bill passes

INDIANAPOLIS - A bill requiring doctors to tell women seeking an abortion that human life begins at conception cleared the Senate Health Committee Wednesday (**Associated Press**). The bill would require doctors to inform women seeking abortions that "an embryo formed by the fertilization of a human ovum by a human sperm immediately begins to divide and grow as human physical life."

