



## To Russia ... with Lugar, Nunn

*1995 presidential campaign echoes as Lugar heads east*

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - On March 20, 1995, the Japanese terror group Aum Shinrikyo conducted five coordinated sarin attacks on the Tokyo Metro, killing 12, injuring 50 while temporarily blinding thousands. They had studied in modern university graduate programs, built lavish labs with the intent of weaponizing pathogens.

Less than a month later, at 8:02 a.m. April 19, 1995 as U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar was preparing to kick off his presidential campaign at the City Market, Timothy McVeigh bombed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 and injuring 800. It cast a pall over Lugar's speech, but underscored one of the most memorable lines he would use over the next nine months: that we would

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During a visit to the chemical weapons depository at Shchuchye, Russia in December 2000, Senator Lugar demonstrates the proliferation risk by placing an 85mm chemical shell into an ordinary briefcase. More than 1.9 million chemical munitions are housed at Shchuchye. (Nunn-Lugar Photo)

## Lugar (or Nunn) in '08

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

COLUMBUS - Several weeks ago, I wrote the majority of this column. It essentially made the case for something impossible: a resurrected presidential bid by Sen. Dick Lugar, who I'll be traveling to Russia with this coming week. I

chickened out on publishing the column, because I didn't want to be seen as a Quixotic hotdog, wishing for the impossible. The political fantasy would have been a Lugar-Nunn independent ticket.

Then came the **Atlanta Journal & Constitution** interview with former Sen. Sam Nunn, Lugar's Democratic partner on the nuclear/biological/chemical threat initiative. Nunn has hooked up



“How many additional dead Americans was Saddam worth? Our judgment was not very many, and I think we got that right.”

- Vice President Dick Cheney, in 1994, explaining why the U.S. didn't invade Iraq in 1991, in a video now on the Internet



with Hamilton Jordan and Doug Bailey's initiative to run an independent candidate in 2008. As Nunn told the Journal & Constitution, "It's a possibility, not a probability. My own thinking is, it may be a time for the country to say, 'Time-out. The two-party system has served us well, historically, but it's not serving us now.'"

In 1992 as a political reporter for the **Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette**, I watched the Ross Perot phenomenon take off to the point that by April and May of that year, he was credible enough for many of us to fathom a possible victory before his paranoia became publicly evident. Twelve years before that, I had voted for John Anderson for president (I didn't believe Ronald Reagan could cut taxes, balance the budget and increase defense spending).

I'll pick up my Lugar for president column as originally written last month:

The next president will likely preside over events that may be beyond our belief or comprehension.

We've seen wisps of smoke of the future, like when the Russians turned off the natural gas against its European neighbors on New Years Day a couple years ago, and the cyber attack on Estonia. And, of course, radical Islamacists are blowing themselves up throughout the Middle East. Our energy margins have evaporated.

And at this point, after watching the Democratic and Republican presidential fields, I don't see an obvious statesman in play. I like the commanding presence of Rudy Giuliani, but as his police helicopters watched the listing of the World Trade Center, they could not communicate with the 300 firefighters toiling to get up to the 80th floor. His emergency command center - in WTC 7 - collapsed late in the after-

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noon on 9/11.

I like Sen. Barack Obama's life story that played out from Hawaii to Indonesia and, finally, south Chicago, and I love his freshness. But I winced when he said he would meet with Hugo Chavez and Castro. Are we ready for a president needing on-the-job training? Or is Obama the next Lincoln? Sen. Hillary Clinton has been the most poised, but she is an Artful Dodger and, to tell you the truth, I have had it with the Clintons and Bushes. The founding fathers did their best to prevent White House dynasties. I believe Mitt Romney is a waffle salesman. Fred Thompson is an actor who didn't do what Ronald Reagan did in the late 1950s - spend time in the lunchrooms in cities like Decatur and Fort Wayne talking to the General Elec-

tric rank and file. The American pulse (and the lack of a Soviet counterpart) was constantly beating in his heart and mind.

The rest - the Huckabees, the Bidens, the Brownbacks and Dodds - are too ideological, shrill or inexperienced to be taken seriously. None of them talk in three-dimensional policy. We have no clue what they see as a solution for Iraq or health care.

I keep thinking back to 1995

when I crossed paths with Sen. Dick Lugar in a hotel lobby in Muscatine, Iowa. He was ticked off at Des Moines Register columnist David Yepsen, who discounted his presidential candidacy. I'd never seen Lugar angry before and he complained that he wasn't "famous enough" to be president.

Well, Americans ended up with two successive "famous" presidents, one who triangulated and undulated his way to impeachment (as bin Laden was declaring war and bombing our embassies), and another - President George W. Bush - who constructed a moderate facade in of all places the **New York Times Magazine**, raised a ton of money and gave us the listing presidency we have today. Bush is intellectually incurious (read the Iraq War books by Thomas Ricks and Bob Woodward), was disinterested in terrorism in mid-summer 2001, then fabricated his way into two wars we are now losing, one which was to strike at Saddam's phantom WMD. In the meantime, Bush looked the other way as A.Q. Khan was selling the Pakistani centrifuge technology to Libya, North Korea and Iran.

In 1995 and 1996, Lugar warned of a "destruction of an American city in our lifetime" (both the WTC and Pentagon were/are essentially medium-sized cities). His campaign kickoff came on the same day as the Oklahoma City bombing.

He talked of a consumption tax that would make the IRS obsolete and provide for higher wages with 4 percent growth. He tried to reform the agricul-



**Nunn and Lugar leave the White House in 1991. (Nunn-Lugar Photo)**



ture subsidy circus. He repeated the warnings of Presidents Nixon and Carter: that America needed to construct a path of energy self-sufficiency. He advocated more fuel efficient cars. He wanted more foreign student scholars to populate our universities and high-tech companies. He talked about Africa, which drove the national press corps into slumber.

Today, America stands at a fork in the road. The decision we make in November 2008 could determine whether America continues as the power of good in 2050 or 2099, or if we compound the tragic decisions of the last two dynastic presidencies, could make us the not-so-Great Britain of the 21st Century.

Using a slogan: "We Don't Need Fame; We Need Competency," Dick Lugar should avail himself to the Republican Party as its standard bearer in 2008. As he told a United We Stand conference on Aug. 12, 1995, "Americans are also frustrated with political procedures. Politicians choose to pander, not to lead."

He doesn't need to raise millions of dollars. He needs thinking, logical Republicans and Democrats to acknowledge there are new forces in play (YouTube is one where the most pitiful break dancer can make the Today Show). He should enter the presidential race, say he will serve one term, and orchestrate a unity ticket (Lugar-Obama). Lugar needs to tell Americans that if, come next January and February, they don't

find a Roosevelt or a Lincoln or an Eisenhower - and we really need one now - he stands ready to offer mature, competent, bipartisan leadership. With the right kind of low budget, e-mail and Internet campaign, the time is ripe for someone with Lugar's stature to make a case that Hollywood needs to stay in Hollywood, and that a patriotic statesman needs to assume the helm during the mountainous seas we find ourselves in.

We saw the kind of impact Lugar wielded on June 25 and the following weeks when he pleaded with President Bush to redeploy in Iraq in order to protect America's regional stature. He has connected the nation's security and the world's environment to the war.

At the end of this month, Lugar travels to Russia, Ukraine and Albania with former Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn to learn, praise and plead with those who have a say in how we deal with WMD, how we conduct the world affairs on energy and security. There will be an international audience as he tries to build on 15 years of the Nunn-Lugar Act.

They will see consensus building by forward thinkers as we stand at the precipice of the new century that has yet to fully arrive while we barely comprehend the long-term meaning of the wild events happening in our midst.

If need be, scratch Lugar's name and insert Nunn's in the last five paragraphs. ❖



**Sen. Lugar with HPR's Brian Howey in New Hampshire 1996. (HPR Photo)**

## **To Russia ... with Lugar: From page 1**

likely lose an American city in our lifetime to terrorism.

There was highly enriched uranium and plutonium confiscated at airports in Prague and Munich in 1994.

While the Murrah building smoldered and heaved in Oklahoma City and CNN's cameras were fixed on the Great Plains, Lugar said at the City Market, "The essence of presidential leadership is to make important changes in our country without dividing our country. American prosperity requires that America be secure. To achieve this, we must have a president who understands and knows how to deal with the world around us; a president who can and will act decisively to use American power and influence to ensure America's safety well into the new century."

Lugar continued, "Americans understand that their president must

know what he is doing on national security. Otherwise he'll find himself making it up as he goes along, bouncing from one crisis to the next. Americans understand that their President must know what he's doing as Commander-in-Chief. The price of inexperience when it comes to that presidential duty will ultimately be paid in the blood of our sons and daughters."

At an Aug. 12, 1995, speech before the United We Stand Conference in Texas, candidate Lugar explained, "Listen carefully because I've come to Texas to alert the American people to a most dangerous national security problem, a challenge we must meet successfully. On April 19, 1995, American terrorists demolished Oklahoma City's federal office building, killing 168 men, women and little children. Two and one half years earlier, international terrorists attacked New York City's 110-story World Trade Center.



**Sen. Lugar and Ukrainian General Vladimir Mityuk stand in front of a Blackhawk bomber in November 1998. Ukraine's Blackhawk bombers, which were capable of delivering 24 nuclear-armed cruise missiles, have all been dismantled under Nunn-Lugar.**



Had that explosion succeeded in undermining the structural foundation, 30,000 people would have died."

Suppose, Lugar said, that "instead of mini-vans filled with hundreds of pounds of crude explosives used in Oklahoma City and New York, terrorists had acquired a 100-pound, grapefruit-sized ball of highly-enriched uranium. Assuming a simple, well-known design, a weapon fashioned from this material would produce a nuclear blast equivalent to 10,000 to 20,000 tons of TNT. Most of the people of Oklahoma City would have disappeared."

In the book **"Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War,"** Nunn sounded a favorite theme: the collapse of the Soviet Union had left behind tens of thousands of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and the scientists who knew how to make them. "The scenario of a terrorist group either obtaining or manufacturing and using a weapon of mass destruction is no longer the stuff of science fiction or even adventure movies," Nunn said. "It is a reality which has come to pass."

In the 10,000 years of the human experience, men have long been able to enslave each other, perpetrate holocausts with millions of victims, and destroy cities and states. Beginning in 1945 with the atomic attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the U.S. terrorized the Japanese into surrender, perhaps saving the lives of a million American fathers who would go on to create the Baby Boom. There was a half century of Mutually Assured Destruction between the Americans and the Soviets, until the latter collapsed under its own weight. This was the first period of humanity in which the entire human species could have been wiped out.

The Soviets left behind horror shows like Stepnogorsk on the Kazakhstan Steppe, a 25-building complex built to weaponize anthrax, Marburg and Ebola. In the book "Germs," diplomat Andy Weber described the complex "that horrified them." The compound had security fences that were torn and no longer electrified. The motion detectors were gone. Airlocks that had once kept deadly microbes from escaping hung open. In Building 600, the Americans found a 50-foot high aerosol test chamber where the microbes were tested on animals. There was Renaissance Island - now connected to land in the shrinking Aral Sea - where the Soviets buried weapons grade anthrax. The book "Germs" explains, "At the edge of the old test range, Soviet soldiers poured bleach into the canisters to decontaminate the deadly pink powder. Then they dug huge pits and poured the sludge into the ground, burying the decontaminated spores and, Moscow hoped, a serious political threat"

(you can see the anthrax graves on Google Earth).

And, now, in the post-Soviet era, we have the asymmetrical dilemma: rogue terrorists with no cities or borders to defend, no peace to negotiate, seeking the nuclear, chemical and biological weaponry that could destroy cities and decimate regional populations with diseases we once believed had been eradicated.

At the Anti-Plague Institute at Almaty, Weber found 1,000 lethal germ strains protected only by a rickety wooden door and a single skeleton-key lock. Asked if he would like to see a sample of the institute's plague, Weber found himself holding enough plague in a rusty pea can to depopulate the entire region.

In slain Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya's 2004 book, **"Putin's Russia,"** she decried the life of Captain Dikiy who commands a nuclear ballistic sub Vilioustchinsk in Kamchatka, where he "eaks out a wretched existence." His monthly rations for his family consisted of two packets of shelled peas, two kilograms of buckwheat and rice in paper bags, two cans of peas, two cans of

Pacific herring, and a bottle of vegetable oil.

Politkovskaya writes, "An atomic reactor with nuclear missiles is an explosive mixture. The submarine is packed with nuclear weapons, the economy is in crisis and the armed forces are in a state of disarray. What could be more scary than that?" As Vice Admiral Dorigin tells the journalist, "With things the way they are, it is only too easy to draw a man into illegal activity. I myself have been offered \$2,000 in an enve-



**This string through wax was the security on a refrigerator containing biological agents. (Nunn-Lugar Photo)**

lope."

### **Lugar, Nunn & Humanity**

Next Monday, Sen. Lugar and former Sen. Sam Nunn land in Moscow - the former an elder statesman, the latter a potential 2008 independent presidential candidate. This visit comes two years after Lugar and Sen. Barack Obama were detained for several hours by regional Russian officials wanting to board the delegation's U.S. Navy plane. It comes as Russian President Vladimir Putin has used Cold War era rhetoric, comparing the U.S. to Nazi Germany. Just this month he ordered Russian air flights to monitor U.S. military bases and warned the Czech Republic from hosting American installations. Few U.S. lawmakers have had the opportunity to grapple with and grasp an issue as extraordinary as the survival of the species.

Lugar and Nunn have.

In November 1991, they wrote the Nunn-Lugar Act, which established the Cooperative Threat Reduction



Program. This program has provided U.S. funding and expertise to help the former Soviet Union safeguard and dismantle its enormous stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, related materials, and delivery systems. In 2003, Congress adopted the Nunn-Lugar Expansion Act, which authorized the Nunn-Lugar program to operate outside the former Soviet Union to address proliferation threats. In 2004, Nunn-Lugar funds were committed for the first time outside of the former Soviet Union to destroy chemical weapons in Albania, under a Lugar-led expansion of the program.

In June alone, the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program destroyed two Soviet era ICBMs, one submarine ballistic missile, and secured four train shipments of nuclear weapons to safe storage.

The Nunn-Lugar scorecard now totals 6,982 strategic nuclear warheads deactivated, 653 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) destroyed, 485 ICBM silos eliminated, 101 ICBM mobile launchers destroyed, 613 submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) eliminated, 436 SLBM launchers eliminated, 30 nuclear submarines capable of launching ballistic missiles destroyed, 155 bombers eliminated, 906 nuclear air-to-surface missiles (ASMs) destroyed, 194 nuclear test tunnels eliminated, 355 nuclear weapons transport train shipments, 12 nuclear weapons storage site security upgrades, and 9 biological monitoring stations built and equipped.

Perhaps most importantly, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan are nuclear weapons free as a result of cooperative efforts under the Nunn-Lugar program. Those countries were the third, fourth and eighth largest nuclear weapons powers in the world.

Beyond nuclear elimination, the Nunn-Lugar program secures and destroys chemical weapons and biological weapons, and has worked to re-employ scientists and facilities related to weapons of mass destruction in peaceful research initiatives. The International Science and Technology Centers, of which the United States is the leading sponsor, engaged 58,000 former weapons scientists in peaceful work. The International Proliferation Prevention Program has funded 750 projects involving 14,000 former weapons scientists and created some 580 new peaceful high-tech jobs.

The book "Germs" reported, as diplomat Weber gauged the horrific opportunities in decrepit labs, spartan unheated institutes with cold, unpaid scientists, and pathogen graveyards at almost every stop, Weber found that Iranian germ hunters had left their business cards, sometimes only days before American officials had arrived. These scientists were offered \$5,000 a month, one-fifth of that all year.

Lugar would it explain it this way in 1994: "In the years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, there have been hundreds of alleged or reported incidents of nuclear assets spilling out of the former USSR. The Ger-

man government alone has reported more than 700 cases of attempted nuclear sales between 1991 and 1994. In the last three years, there have been some 60 instances that involved seizure of nuclear material."

In 1991, the new leaders of Kazakhstan, which discovered at its independence that it was sitting on a stew of nukes and biological weapons, Lugar explained that in the ensuing Project Sapphire: "(The) U.S. recovered 104% of declared inventory. Consider the implications of a 4% error margin in Russian inventory accuracy. Project Sapphire began with a phone call from Kazakhstan to the U.S. The Kazakh authorities reported that they had found a large quantity of unprotected HEU, and asked the U.S. government for advice on how to dispose of this material."

This coming week, Lugar and Nunn will gather new information on this threat. **The Howey Political Report** will offer exclusive Indiana coverage on this trip. Watch [www.howeypolitics.com](http://www.howeypolitics.com) for coverage.

### *Nunn-Lugar Russia/Ukraine/Albania itinerary*

**August 27**, at 6 p.m. the senators will commemorate the 200th anniversary of U.S.-Russia diplomatic relations with remarks and a press conference at Spaso House, the U.S. ambassador's residence in Moscow. The embassy also maintains a website about the anniversary: <http://moscow.usembassy.gov/200th/index.php>.

**August 28**, Lugar and Nunn will participate in a conference on the Future of Arms Control and Nuclear Energy Cooperation, sponsored by the Carnegie Moscow and PIR Centers. Contact the Carnegie Moscow Center for details: <http://www.carnegie.ru/en/>.

**August 29**, the Russian Foreign Ministry will host the 15th Anniversary Celebration of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program at the Bolshoy Osobnyak Mansion. The press conference will begin at 2:45 p.m. The senators will tour the Luch Scientific Production Facility which cooperates with the U.S. nuclear Material Consolidation and Conversion Program. They will also visit the Geodeziya Scientific Research Institute where SS-25 rocket motors are burned. The Soviet SS-25s were mobile, mounted on trucks, and could deliver a nuclear attack on the United States.

**August 30**, Lugar and Nunn will tour the Shchuchye Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility. The Nunn-Lugar program has worked with the Russians to build this facility that will destroy the 1.8 million chemical weapons shells stored there.

**August 31**, Lugar and Nunn will observe maritime and border security operations on the Black Sea and along the Ukraine-Moldova border. They will also visit a biological pathogens facility there.

**September 1**, Lugar and Nunn will attend a conference in Tirana, Albania, celebrating the Nunn-Lugar program's assistance in eliminating Albania's chemical weapons stockpile. ❖



### **Kernan-Shepard Commission lays out timeline, scenarios**

**By BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - It will be six to seven weeks before Hoosier citizens can comment and the public gets clues as to where the Kernan-Shepard Commission on Local Government Reform will be headed.

Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard and former Gov. Joe Kernan told the press on Wednesday that public hearings will likely be scheduled in northern, central and southern Indiana sometime in October. Kernan said that citizens can submit ideas to the IU Center for Urban Policy and the Environment at <http://indianalocalgovreform.iu.edu>, e-mail ideas at [lgreform@iu.edu](mailto:lgreform@iu.edu), or, said Kernan, "If you're driving along and have a thought and don't want to lose it, you can call (317) 261-3025 and leave a voice mail."

"We are urging people to share ideas," Kernan said. "Everything is on the table. That was the charge that we were given, which was go look at everything. From our perspective, everything is fair game."

**They also said there** would be coordination with State Sen. Luke Kenley's Tax Commission. While SPEA will conduct research on previous Indiana studies and what other states have done or are doing to reform their governments, both Shepard and Kernan said they would talk with the Indiana Township Association, IACT, the Association of Indiana Counties and other organizations to, as Shepard said, "Find out what life is like from their point of view." The research for the commission will be coordinated by IU's John Krauss.

The commission will have at least six face-to-face meetings, the next one which will be scheduled about a month from now. They expect the pace to pick up as the commission nears its final report late this year. "When we met today, we realized we've got our hands full," Kernan said.

**Some of the commission** meetings will not be open to the public. Asked why, Shepard said the commission has a short amount of time to gather and weigh very complex issues. He said the commission wanted the ability to "tease out and challenge ideas without worrying about whether somebody gets the idea that that's the answer we think in the end will make for a better product,"

"Our ultimate goal," said Kernan, "is to streamline and modernize Indiana local government while not compromising services." They will look at "what should remain the same and what should be eliminated." They said another goal would be show how tax dollars could be saved.

Asked about the potential for a Constitutional Convention, Chief Justice Shepard noted that the state's original 1816 Constitution provided for a con-con every



Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard and former Gov. Joe Kernan laid out timelines for the Local Government Reform Commission after its first meeting on Wednesday. Below, IU's John Krauss will head up the research component. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

12 years (See HPR, Aug. 16, 2007). Kernan and Shepard were asked a question that has long been debated: would a con-con be an opening for special interest or fringe issues?

**"That was actually** fairly common during the colonial period. That provision doesn't appear in the present version," Shepard said. "The General Assembly could call a convention and provide for election and its holding. That's what actually happened in 1850. What would then happen is the product of that deliberation would be turned over to the General Assembly to decide what would be put on the ballot. There is no straight-from-convention-to-voters arrangement under the current constitution."

Shepard said the "age old question" is would it be possible for the "legislature to constrain what is said or what is recommended? I think the answer is probably no."

Shepard added, "I think it's going to be more productive for us to identify those things that can be done by the General Assembly or by the governor or some other part of the state structure without constitutional change and then identify those that require it and say here are two or three or four things that ought to be done by amendment and recommend those."

Shepard said that the commission would try "not to over-lawyer this and try our best to be pinpointed on what we think will best get us from here to there." ❖





## Township Association sees ‘same fight, new arena’

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - For the Indiana Township Association, it's the "same fight ... new arena."

After HPR recounted an array of bad publicity from Griffith and Calumet Township, to Pigeon Township in Vanderburgh County, to Center Township in Indianapolis, we came across this "call to action" by the Indiana Township Association on its website ([www.indianatownshipassoc.org](http://www.indianatownshipassoc.org)): "Someone recently commented, 'Aw... they're never going to do away with us. It's the same old fight. Why, I remember back in the 1980s they were talking about getting rid of townships.'

The web article continued: "The 'fight' is for preserving township government and its duties. 'They' are members of the Indiana General Assembly. The 'fight' continues, but 'they' have changed – it's a new arena. And not a good one for small, local governments. Long-time 'friends of township government' are now questioning the need for townships and many have determined that it is time for townships to get out of the assessing business and turn it over to the counties completely. This shift in attitude is undeniable.

"Several proponents of small government, whom we have counted as champions of the cause, are no longer serving at the statehouse. The loss is noticeable," the ITA article continued. "We issued a Call-to-Action, urging our members to contact their legislators, and prepared a one-page summary to be distributed to the General Assembly outlining our position on the assessing issue. Over the next three days we met with as many legislators as possible, highlighting our concerns and asking them to please support township government when the issue was introduced in their caucus meetings. Our final tally indicated that we spoke in-person to nearly two-thirds of the General Assembly. Those many conversations were very revealing. They confirmed our fear – the climate has changed to one that is not supportive of assessing at the township level.

"It was made clear to us, in no uncertain terms, that if we do not put forth a good-faith effort in coming up with a solution, we do not know that we will be successful next year in retaining real property assessing duties. We have been told by leaders in all four caucuses that this solution must include some form of merging or consolidation of assessing districts. They believe that consistency in the assessing system can only be found if the number of officials responsible for assessing is reduced.

"Please be assured that the ITA has not nor will we give up. However, we have to now sit at their table to

find out how some form of assessing can be retained at the township level. We believe that local assessing is the most efficient and best serves the citizens of Indiana. Yet, here we are – seemingly at an impasse – where some sort of change is inevitable in order to survive. Several years ago, our friend Representative Phil Hinkle told trustees at an ITA conference, 'The train of change is coming. Either get in front with a plan or stand at the station waving goodbye.' The train is getting close. This fight is not letting up. We must prepare now for change."

**On Wednesday, Chief Justice** Randall T. Shepard was asked about the future of townships during a press conference with former Gov. Joe Kernan (see page 8). "They are the only unit of government the number which hasn't changed in 100 years," Shepard said. "Everything else actually has." Asked about the role of township assessors, Kernan said it is an example of an office the commission will examine.

Gov. Mitch Daniels told the **Times of Northwest Indiana** editorial board on Wednesday that he does not want to get ahead of the commission's work but does believe there are problems in the school and township structures that must be addressed. "We have too many school districts in the state," Gov. Daniels said. He said some serious questions need to be asked about the township government system, calling it, "highly suspect."

And in this morning's **Lafayette Journal & Courier**, reporter Dan Shaw writes: The Tippecanoe County Council slashed a proposed 2008 budget submitted by county assessor Samantha Steele from \$625,148 to \$256,531, taking most of the money out of funds she uses to pay employees. Budgets submitted by the Fairfield, Wabash and Wea (township) assessors -- who oversee the three townships with the most property in Tippecanoe County -- were also cut by a large amount.

Councilman David Byers said the council made the moves to encourage the officials to agree on one common budget. "We have four professionals here who should be working together, and it's not happening," he said. Byers wants the assessors to submit a single budget before Sept. 11, when the council plans to approve the budgets of all county departments.

The trouble stems from a disagreement between Steele and the three other assessors over how the county's reassessment fund should be used. Steele's budget called for spending \$625,148 out of that fund in 2008, a 33 percent increase over the previous budget of \$471,309. Much of that additional money would be used to pay new employees.

Several employees of the township assessors are also paid out of the reassessment fund. Wea Township Assessor Linda Mussche, said it's hard to know what Steele wants to do because she seems to be uninterested in talking with the other three assessors. "There has been a communications breakdown," she said. ❖





## CD incumbents fight low Congressional rating

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON - It's not yet clear how record-low approval ratings for Congress might affect politics in Indiana.

But if Hoosier voters are frustrated with gridlock on Capitol Hill, Rep. Joe Donnelly (D-2nd CD) wants to convince them that the problem lies with the Republican minority, not his party's majority.

As he travels around north central Indiana to about 150 events during the August congressional recess, he ticks off bills that the House has passed, like measures that would allow the government to negotiate drug prices for seniors, increase college grants and decrease student loan rates.

"We're waiting for the president and the Senate to approve them," he said in an HPR interview. "(Voters) understand there's a process. We're working, we're plugging away, and we're trying to get these things done."

This summer's congressional break, which lasts for the entire month, is the first extended time that members of Congress have had to visit with constituents. It's a key recess because it gives Indiana's three new Democratic House members, Donnelly and Reps. Baron Hill (9th CD) and Brad Ellsworth (8th CD), a chance to fortify their presence.

August in an off year also is a time for political races to stir and start to illuminate what may be on the agenda for 2008.

On the campaign front, Donnelly, Hill and Ellsworth are in good shape financially. As of the latest Federal Election Commission filing, Donnelly has \$411,327 on hand. Hill and Ellsworth have \$543,989 and \$432,418, respectively.

Only Ellsworth has a declared opponent. Greg Goode, executive assistant to the president of Indiana State University, announced his campaign for the Republican nomination on August 1.

### 9th CD: Waiting for Sodrel

In the 9th CD, all eyes are on former GOP Rep. Mike Sodrel. He has yet to announce whether he will run against Hill for the fourth time.

"If I had that answer, I would be the hottest commodity in Indiana," said Larry Shickles, 9th CD GOP chairman. Sodrel may wait until next February to decide.

Local Republicans are being patient with Sodrel. "For him, it's not about a job," Shickles said. "It's about the issues and public service. Baron's was a career decision. It was a job and he needed the paycheck."

Shickles' counterpart portrays Hill as being more in touch with voters now than he was when he held the seat from 1998 through 2004.

"I see a different Baron Hill," said Mike Jones, 9th CD Democratic chairman. He described Hill as "someone who is listening to the people and then going to Washington and voting what he feels like people want."

In the wake of the property tax revolt in Indiana, the political consumer is much more demanding.

"People are becoming very, very passionate about issues and paying more attention and they're demanding accountability from their elected officials," Jones said. "Tomorrow or next week, it's going to be: What have you done for me today?"

When the voters get around to parsing Hill's record, they'll see someone who talks conservatively in Indiana and votes liberally in Washington, Shickles argues. He says that the grass-

roots support Sodrel has built will help him or whoever challenges Hill.

"We just don't think it's a big hurry," Shickles said. "Baron is vulnerable. Regardless of who gets into the race, there will be a lot of people coming on board to help."

### 8th CD: Goode stresses 'common sense'

Next door in the 8th CD, Goode also is focusing on the grassroots. He says he is trying to follow the campaign model that Gov. Mitch Daniels used in 2003-04, when no city or town was too far out of the way for a visit.

"I've spent a considerable amount of time reaching out to people in 18 counties (in the district) and listening and getting their thoughts on all the issues," said Goode, who has been to festivals in Gibson and Sullivan counties recently.

Ellsworth is in the midst of an extensive "industry tour" that will take him to business sites all over the district. His outings will give him an opportunity to solidify name ID and reassert his conservative Democratic brand, which includes being pro-life and voting against a bill that



Baron Hill and Joe Donnelly in October 2006. (HPR Photo)





would have required U.S. troop redeployment in Iraq by April. But Goode doesn't think that Ellsworth is conservative enough for southwest Indiana. He accuses him of voting for tax increases and being inconsistent in supporting U.S. troops. Goode said that the theme of his campaign will be "common sense conservative values." He intends to link Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to Ellsworth.

"I would never ever vote for a Speaker of the House who is pro-abortion, pro-tax, anti-gun and enjoys visiting with leaders of countries who sponsor terrorism, and Syria comes to mind," Goode said.

Ellsworth wasn't available for comment. "It's a long time between now and Election Day in November 2008, and the congressman remains focused on his duties in representing the people of the 8th District," said Elizabeth Farrar, Ellsworth's spokeswoman.

### 2nd CD: Donnelly's 'independent voice'

As he meets with his constituents during August, Donnelly also is stressing his conservative credentials.

He cites a recent vote to allow U.S. surveillance for six months without a warrant of international calls between foreign suspects of terrorism and Americans as long as the foreign participants are the target. He says the bill protects civil liberties, an issue that caused many Democrats to oppose the measure.

"The people of the district understand that I've

been taking a moderate to conservative course," he said. "I've been independent."

Politicians of all stripes are likely to be roiled by the upcoming Iraq debate. With a report from the U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, due in September, political tensions may reach the boiling point.

Donnelly said he would support moving U.S. troops to the border and having them concentrate on training Iraqi troops and conducting special operations. He is wary of leaving the United States in the crossfire between Sunnis and Shiites, a conflict that the Iraqi government can't seem to settle.

"Our soldiers don't deserve to be in the middle of that," Donnelly said. "The people in the district are impressed by the job our troops have done. At the same time, they're disgusted with the Iraqi government."

On the domestic front, Donnelly said that there is "nervousness" in Kokomo and elsewhere about private equity firms taking over auto manufacturers and suppliers. China's growing clout also causes disquiet.

"There is significant concern about job security, job creation and the desire to keep our jobs from being outsourced to China and other countries," Donnelly said.

Despite the grueling event schedule, Donnelly relishes time away from Washington. "It's great to be back home," he said, as he made his way from Marshall to Starke counties on Tuesday. ❖

## 2007 Mayoral

**Fort Wayne:** Republican: Matthew Kelty.

Democrat: Tom Henry. **2003 Results:** Richard (D) 27,251, Buskirk (R) 19,701. **2007 Forecast:** Despite Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine's earlier promise of party unity, some party leaders are publicly questioning whether the party should continue to support mayoral candidate

Matt Kelty (Leininger, **Fort Wayne**

**News-Sentinel**). At a meeting

of the party's executive committee

Monday, several members

expressed concerns that support

for Kelty, indicted last week on nine

counts of perjury and campaign-finance

violations, may make it more

difficult to elect other Republicans in the Nov. 6 election. "I

told them the party has got to stand for certain principles,

including honesty and integrity," said John McGauley, who

was elected Allen County recorder last year. "But Kelty lied

to us, he lied to the public and, apparently, he lied to the

grand jury. We can run against Tom Henry again in four

years, but we can't if we give up the core things we stand

for. Would we do that if we support Kelty? Yes." Other

members of the 15-member committee said they believe

the party should remain loyal to Kelty, but did not want to



be identified. That's because what happens in executive committee meetings is supposed to remain confidential, Shine said. "Anyone who said anything should be man or woman enough to resign," Shine said. "It's a complete betrayal, as serious as the (Kelty) issues they're speaking about. Shame on them." "I said what I said," McGauley responded. "I'm free to state my own opinion. I'm not violating anyone's confidence but my own." "There's nothing (the committee) can do about Kelty running or not running," said committee member Bill Bean, a local developer. "Our purpose was to discuss the effect this might have on other races. My biggest concern is political apathy, that people will just stay home." **Status: SAFE HENRY.**

**Indianapolis:** Democrat: Mayor Bart Peterson.

Republican: Greg Ballard. **2003 Results:** Peterson (D) 92,763, Jordan (R) 55,354. **2007 Forecast:** As WISH-TV's Jim Shella asks, "Where's Greg Ballard?" his window of opportunity to make this race competitive is closing fast. Actually, Ballard was to surface today to unveil an ethics proposal. Rex Early described Ballard's recent fundraising forays as more an "uptick" than the floodgates opening. That would take Ballard from "invisible" to "anemic." The public anger is still there; but Ballard has yet to convey why we should entrust the nation's 12th largest city to him. Peterson launched an innovative DNA program to track down burglars this week and address the crime issues he faces.



**Status:** LEANS PETERSON.

**Kokomo:** Democrat: Councilman Greg Goodnight. Republican: Councilman Rick Hamilton. **2003 Primary Results:** Republican: McKillips 1,565, Donoghue 972, Bolinger 327, McKay 243, T. Hamilton 38. Democrat: Castner 1,360, Lushin 1,358, Alexander 969, Ellis 34. **2003 General Results:** McKillip (R) 5,229, Castner (D) 4101, Dunlap (I) 832. **2007 Forecast:** U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly endorsed Goodnight, saying, "Greg was there to help my campaign for congress - he helped me at every stage of the campaign. When it was a real up-hill struggle Greg would tell me not to worry - we are all in this together. There has never, as far as I know, been a person as well prepared to lead this city into the future as Greg Goodnight is today. Greg is an exceptional individual whose help is needed at a very exceptional time. We face challenges on the industrial front. We face challenges in almost every way as a country. Greg is the kind of person who will be a great leader, and for me, a great partner in serving Kokomo." Goodnight thanked Donnelly for his endorsement and then made a brief statement. "A few months ago I announced from this very location that when I'm elected I will fight for the families of Kokomo." **Primary Status:** LEANS MCKILLIP; LIKELY GOODNIGHT.

**South Bend:** Republican: Juan Manigault. Democrat: Mayor Stephen Luecke. **2003 General Results:** Luecke (D) 10,598, Schmidt (R) 4,188. **2007 Forecast:** Manigault was endorsed by the FOP. **Primary Status:** TOSSUP

## 2007 Legislative

**HD40 Caucus:** Gregory E. Steuerwald, who has served as the Hendricks County attorney for more than a decade, won the caucus to replace former State Rep. Matt Whetstone.

## 2008 Congressional

**Congressional District 2: Republican:** Kokomo Controller Phil Williams. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496

(54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Result:** Donnelly 103,561, Chocola 88,300. **2008 Forecast:** CQPolitics.com (8/17, Rehmann) reported that IN2 Rep. Joe Donnelly has, so far, not "attracted a top-tier GOP candidate," and he's "been doing plenty of fundraising to ward off opponents," raising nearly \$650,000. **Status:** LIKELY DONNELLY

**Congressional District 8:** Republican: Greg Goode. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2008 Forecast:** CQPolitics.com (8/17, Rehmann) reported, "Republicans received good news earlier this month when" Greg Goode (R), "a legislative liaison for Indiana State University, announced his intention to challenge" IN8 Rep Brad Ellsworth (D). However, Ellsworth has "been doing plenty of fundraising to ward off opponents," raising "nearly \$500,000 during his first six months in office." **Status:** LIKELY ELLSWORTH

**Congressional District 9:** Republican: Mike Sodrel, Todd Young. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2006 Results:** Hill 110,455, Sodrel 100,469, Schansburg 9,893. **2008 Forecast:** CQPolitics.com (8/17, Rehmann) reported that "halfway through the first year of his fourth term," IN9 Rep. Baron Hill (D) "is being targeted yet again as one of the most vulnerable Democratic incumbents in the country." Mike Sodrel (R) is widely expected to run for a fourth time in 2008, and his "three previous races mean he does not want for name recognition. More important, he's made millions...and has shown a willingness to spend it." However, "Hill has been careful to distance himself from his party's liberal base" and "hasn't lost any time raising money: He had \$544,000 in cash on hand at the end of June, nearly twice what he had at this point four years ago, the last time he was running as an incumbent." **Status:** LEANS HILL. ❖



## THE BOAR'S NEST

### *JLT picks up 2 endorsements; Schellinger begins tour*

Former Indiana Congresswoman and gubernatorial candidate **Jill Long Thompson** announced today the endorsements of two key Democratic leaders. First District Chair **Bonnie Reese** of Wheatfield and Third District Chair **Steve Haines** of Warsaw said they were throwing their support behind Long Thompson in her quest for the Democratic nomination for Governor. The announcements come on the eve of the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association convention at the Belterra Casino and Resort. "Jill Long Thompson gives the Democratic Party its best chance to defeat **Mitch Daniels** in 2008," said Haines. "Jill's experience, background, and character make her by far the most qualified candidate for Governor." "I've know Jill for 27 years," said Reese. "She is no 'Johnny-come-lately', but a proven leader who will run a government that is responsive to the people. Jill understands the problems and concerns of all people, and she has shown time and again in Congress and as Under Secretary of Agriculture that she really cares about average working people." Meanwhile, Democratic gubernatorial candidate **Jim Schellinger** and wife **Laura** were kicking off a "listening tour" Shelbyville, Greensburg, North Vernon and Madison. "Indiana's most valuable asset is our people," Schellinger said. "The answers to the challenges we face are right here in Indiana. As I travel across Indiana, I hear from Hoosiers who want to see change and want leadership that will unite our state."

### **IDEA will honor Townsend, Brademas**

The IDEA's Frank O'Bannon Public Service Award and Breakfast on Saturday will honor former state senator and 1984 Democratic gubernatorial nominee **Wayne**

**Townsend** and former U.S. House of Representatives Majority Whip **John Brademas**.

### **Convicted Monticello mayor to resign**

Monticello Mayor Bob Fox must leave office and spend three years on probation after a judge accepted his guilty plea to charges that he submitted false reimbursement claims. Fox, 71, also must pay nearly \$2,500 in restitution and perform 200 hours of community service under terms of his sentencing Wednesday on four felony counts of theft. Special Judge **Kim Hall** of Starke County issued the harshest penalty allowed under terms of Fox's agreement with prosecutors. "No. 1, I'm extremely ashamed," Fox said inside a packed courtroom. "I want to apologize to the citizens of this great city of Monticello, Indiana, which I love very much and would do anything for."

### **Early predicts Thompson will be \$ leader**

Former Indiana Republican Chairman **Rex Early**, who is co-hosting a fundraiser for looming presidential candidate **Fred Thompson**, said that after this weekend, the former Tennessee senator and Hollywood actor will be the presidential money leader in Indiana.

### **Buskill elected Clark GOP Chair**

Clark County's Republicans unanimously tabbed **David Buskill**, a former campaign aide for a pair of GOP congressmen, as the party's new chairman, replacing Glenn Murphy (**News-Tribune**). The caucus, which took place Tuesday at the Republican Victory Center in Jeffersonville, lasted only a few minutes and resulted in all 18 precinct committeemen who were present agreeing that Buskill, 36, should lead the party. Buskill, of Jeffersonville, replaces **Glenn Murphy Jr.**, who stepped down earlier this month in the wake of an allegation that he sexually assaulted a man on July 29. Following the vote, Jeffersonville mayoral candidate and Clark County Councilman **Monty Snelling** drew laughs when he questioned Buskill's credentials. "Do you have much experience as a Republican?" Snelling asked. "I think my whole life," Buskill replied. ❖



Gov. Mitch Daniels joined hundreds of people from Kosciusko County to dedicate the new Louis Dreyfus integrated soybean processing and biodiesel production facility in Claypool. The plant will crush nearly 50 million bushels of soybeans per year, producing over 1 million tons of protein-rich soybean meal and 80 million gallons of biodiesel annually. (Dreyfus Photo)

**Got a tip for the Boar's Nest? Send it to: [phillipsgroup@comcast.net](mailto:phillipsgroup@comcast.net)**



## GOP Leadership Conference Schedule

INDIANAPOLIS - Here is the schedule for the Republican Midwest Leadership Conference that will include speeches by presidential candidates Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee and Fred Thompson:

### FRIDAY

12:00pm - 2:00pm

Chairman's Kickoff Luncheon Lunch  
Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels & Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee  
Candidate for President of the United States

Indiana State Chairman J. Murray Clark  
Westin Indianapolis, Grand Ballroom

2:00pm - 2:45pm

Road to the White House - A look at the Political Landscape in 2008  
Mike Duncan, Chairman - Republican National Committee - Kentucky  
Indiana Convention Center, Wabash 1 & 2

3:00pm - 4:00pm

What does America think? The Pollsters

Report, Mark Weaver, Communications Counsel BJ Martino, The Tarrance Group  
Jim Burton, Public Opinion Strategies  
Indiana Convention Center, Wabash 1 & 2

6:00pm Indianapolis Motor Speedway  
Hoosier Hospitality BBQ Former Governor Mitt Romney Candidate for President of the United States

### SATURDAY

8:30am - 10:00am Breakfast, J. Kenneth Blackwell, fFormer Two-Term Ohio Secretary of State; 10:00am - 10:45am  
Angela McGlowan, Fox News Political Analyst & Author, Indiana Convention Center, Sagamore Ballroom 3

11:00am - 11:45am Immigration Panel Discussion  
Indiana Congressman Mike Pence, moderator, Former Congressman Mike Sodrel Greg Garrison, Radio Talk Show Host  
Indiana Convention Center, Sagamore Ballroom 3

12:00pm - 2:00pm Crossroads of America Luncheon  
Jo Ann Davidson, Co-Chairman Republican National Committee - Ohio  
Indiana Convention Center, Sagamore Ballrooms 4 & 5

2:00pm - 3:00pm Victory '08 - A Strategic Look, Indiana Convention Center, Sagamore Ballroom 3

3:00pm - 4:30pm Victory '08 Media Panel: Former White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer, moderator, Indiana Convention Center, Sagamore Ballroom 3

6:00pm Heartland Republican Dinner With remarks from Senator Fred Thompson  
Indiana Convention Center, Sagamore Ballrooms 4 & 5

### SUNDAY

8:00am - 9:30am Sunrise on America Breakfast, Michigan Congressman Thad McCotter  
Chairman, House Republican Policy Committee  
Westin Indianapolis, Grand Ballroom ❖



## 2008 State Presidential Polls

	Date	Romney	Giuliani	Thompson	McCain	Huckabee
<b>Iowa (R)</b>						
Univ. of Iowa	July 29-Aug.1	27	11	7	3	3
ARG	July 26-30	21	22	13	17	1
<b>New Hampshire (R)</b>						
Rasmussen	Aug. 9	32	20	7	11	-
<b>South Carolina (R)</b>						
ARG	July 26-30	7	28	27	10	<b>Gingrich</b> 7



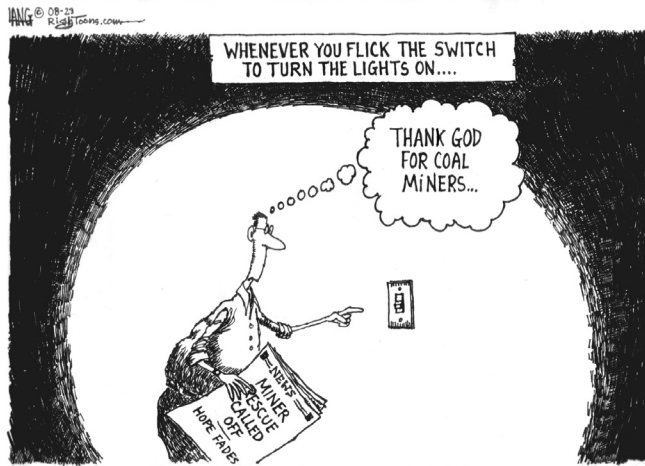
**Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union** - Eric Miller is coming to town Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. His "repeal property taxes" road show is gaining traction. Of course, if it wasn't for the screwy mess the legislature and the courts have made of the Indiana property tax system, Miller wouldn't have much to go on. But the truth of the matter is that the Indiana property tax system is a screwy mess, and Miller's proposal to repeal property taxes via a constitutional amendment might not be all that bad of an idea. I agree with Miller's basic premise that property owners should be free of governmental incumbrance. If you go out and buy a pair of shoes, you get to keep the shoes. They're your shoes. But if you go out and buy a house in Indiana, it's really never fully yours. Even after you've paid it off and burned your mortgage, the government still has a lien on it. You have to pay the property taxes, and if you don't, the government can and will take your property from you. That has always seemed somehow immoral to me, but hey, we have to fund the schools and the cops and the firemen, don't we? But Miller says there's a better way, through sales and income taxes. And while I tend to agree, I am always worried about unintended consequences. Miller says that a 2-percent increase in the state sales tax and a 1-percent increase in the state income tax will make up the difference if property taxes are repealed. I'm not so sure. The state collects between \$6 billion and \$7 billion a year in property taxes. Each penny of sales tax collected raises around \$950 million. Each penny of income tax raises around \$1.4 billion. (O.K. I feel compelled to point something out at this point. Miller's material says he wants to "increase the sales tax 2 percent and the income tax 1 percent." Well, I suppose 2 cents per dollar is a 2 percent increase. But the sales tax right now is 6 cents on the dollar. So, in my view, raising a tax from 6 to 8 cents per dollar is not a 2-percent increase. It's a 33.3-percent increase. If at 6 cents per dollar the state is pulling in \$5.7 billion in sales tax, at 8 cents per dollar, the state will reap \$7.6 billion. That's a 33.3-percent increase in revenue. The current income tax is 3.4 percent. Increasing it to 4.4 percent is a 29.4 percent increase with a resultant 29.4 percent increase in income tax collections. Guess 2 and 1 percent sounds better, though.) The rest, he says, will come from savings in administrative costs of collecting property taxes and by controlling state and local government spending. I'm highly skeptical about that. ❖



**Rich James, Post-Tribune** - I'll put another notch on the birthday belt tomorrow, as well as mark my 20th day without a cigarette -- both significant reasons to be on the edge. While neither issue is going to cause me to go postal, the possibility that I may have to start paying an income tax to lower my property tax bill could put me on the brink. I was starting to buy into this stuff we've been hearing from the General Assembly and the governor's office for 25 years -- "You've got to help yourself before you can expect any help from the state." But that was when I was young, impressionable and smoking two packs a day. But now I'm older, a tad wiser and YES, I'd love to have a blankety-blank cigarette. Now. But if I did, I'd lose focus on the issue at hand -- taxes. What right does the General Assembly have to tell the Lake County Council to impose an income tax for property tax relief or the state will freeze the levies of all units of government in the county? If that kind of extortion happened on the local level, the feds would be all over it. All of a sudden, the state is saying, "Lake County -- you've got a problem." Yeah, and you created it, Indy. ❖

**Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune** - Political endorsements mean something, but usually not very much. Fraternal Order of Police endorsements in the South Bend and Mishawaka mayoral races went to the challengers rather than the incumbent mayors. Do these endorsements mean that Mayor Steve Luecke in South Bend, a Democrat, and Mayor Jeff Rea in Mishawaka, a Republican, aren't interested in fighting crime or supporting the police? Or is this mostly police grumbling that could be directed at any city administration, Republican or Democratic, because of budget restraints and legal restraints that won't permit any mayor to give police all they seek in pay, equipment and tactics? The endorsements

certainly mean something. The mayors would have preferred being endorsed. But will the endorsements mean many actual votes for Mike Hayes, the Democratic challenger endorsed in Mishawaka, or for Juan Manigault, the Republican challenger endorsed in South Bend? "It demonstrates to the public that I'm going to win this election," said Manigault. "I don't think they've endorsed a winner yet," Luecke said, with clear reference in particular to an FOP effort to defeat him in the 1999 Democratic primary election, where he won big. ❖





## **Bush connects Iraq War to Vietnam pullout**

KANSAS CITY- President Bush's Wednesday speech on Iraq, delivered before the VFW convention in Kansas City, is receiving extensive media coverage, with reports on all three network, hundreds of local TV newscasts and the front pages of this morning's major newspapers. While Bush used a variety of arguments to defend his Iraq policies, it was his mention of Vietnam that sparked the most commentary -- much of it negative. As the Kansas City Star (8/23, Krasket, 276K) reports this morning, Bush cited "US conflict with Japan and the Korean War as examples of what can be achieved." Bush pledged to maintain the same commitment for Iraq. "As long as I am commander in chief, we will fight to win," the president said. And the Washington Post (8/23, A1, Fletcher, 723K), in a front-page story titled "Bush Compares Iraq To Vietnam," notes Bush also argued that "withdrawing US troops would lead to widespread death and suffering," as it did in the case of Vietnam after US troops pulled out. In his remarks, he offered a strong echo of the neo-conservative agenda that characterized Mr Bush's first term, which was greeted with derision by many of Mr Bush's critics."



## **Ex-Bush aides target Lugar in Iraq TV ads**

WASHINGTON - Former White House aides including Ari Fleischer are joining Republican fundraisers in bankrolling a \$15 million, five-week advertising campaign putting pressure on lawmakers whose backing of President Bush's Iraq war strategy may be wavering. Sen. Richard Lugar

is targeted. The group, Freedom's Watch, launched the ads Wednesday, even as Bush delivered a renewed call for keeping U.S. forces in Iraq. The money will pay for ad placements on national cable and local television stations as well as on radio and the Internet. The ads will run in 20 states, featuring "soldiers wounded in the war or family members of soldiers killed in the war calling on lawmakers to support the current deployment of troops." The AP adds, "An analysis of the ad placements by Americans United for Change, a group opposed to the war, found Freedom's Watch ads in 33 markets, many of them represented by moderate Republican senators and House members, including Iowa, Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, Tennessee and South Dakota.

## **Carson's grandson files for Indianapolis Council**

INDIANAPOLIS - Three Democrats are running for a vacant City-County Council seat, but just one can count on the endorsement of a U.S. congresswoman. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson's grandson, Andre D. Carson, filed his paperwork Monday, while Mary Ann Sullivan and JoAnn Williams filed Wednesday (**Indianapolis Star**). Each is hoping to fill the 15th District seat left open by Patrice Abdullah, who resigned after admitting that the address he put on his candidate form was just outside his district. Instead, the Democrats on Tuesday will hold a caucus of precinct captains to choose one of the three to fill the seat immediately and appear on the ballot in November. "My only aspiration is to serve on the council," said Carson, an investigator with the Indiana Excise Police.

## **Indianapolis ponders 2012 GOP convention bid**

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Republicans are hoping the party stalwarts attending this weekend's Midwest GOP conference like it so

much that they return -- and bring 50,000 or so of their friends for the party's national convention in 2012 (**Indianapolis Star**). To sell conference attendees on the idea, organizers of the Midwest Republican Leadership Conference have borrowed the Colts' Super Bowl trophy. All who do will be greeted by a banner proclaiming: "Indianapolis 2012 Republican National Convention."

## **Daniels says property taxes will be top '08 priority**

MUNSTER - Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is optimistic about the state changing for the better (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). The governor said his top three priorities for the next legislative session are simple. "Property taxes and ditto, ditto. The immediate goal this year is to provide greater protection and relief, particularly to those who got extraordinarily high bills," he said. Daniels said the problems surrounding property taxes could prove to be a blessing in disguise. "For the first time, a lot of people are energized and can relate to it as something (in government) that pertains to them," he said. "I hope that they will be energized to take a lot closer look at how money is spent in their community and to understand that as spending goes up, my taxes go up."

## **Pelath doesn't see legislation on BP permit**

INDIANAPOLIS - A legislative hearing on BP's more lenient state wastewater permit at its Whiting refinery produced plenty of conversation Wednesday -- nearly five hours worth. But no plan for action. And state Rep. Scott Pelath, who led the fact-finding mission, suggested any move to mitigate Lake Michigan water pollution increases approved for the lakefront plant likely rests with the embattled petroleum giant. Pelath said revoking the state permit would be "very difficult to do from a legal standpoint." ❖