



The coming 7th CD Dem donnybrook

Will unity, or chaos, emerge from the fractured Democrats on Saturday

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Back in the late 1980s, Gov. Robert D. Orr appointed State Sen. Richard Shank to his administration, creating a vacancy.

The powerful Elkhart County Republican Chairman Roy Rogers made a surprising decision. He said he was going to fill Shank's Senate seat himself, vowing to serve out the term and not seek one of his own. Thus, we had State Sen. Roy Rogers. In 1988, Elkhart Commissioner Marvin Riegsecker won a five-way contested but orderly primary and still serves in the Senate to this day.

I tell this story because beginning this Saturday and extending through May 6, and possibly through November, the 7th Congressional District has all the potential of exposing the fissures in the Democratic Party that



Indianapolis Councilman Andre Carson is shown here as his grandmother - the late U.S. Rep. Julia Carson - was brought to the Indiana Statehouse to lie in repose. Carson is one of nine Democrats who will vie in a 10 a.m.. caucus at Shortridge Middle School Saturday for the 7th CD and his ability to find unity presents a huge challenge early in his career. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

See Page 3

Obama-Hamilton?

By **LOU JACOBSON**

Special to the Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - With Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) looking like a strong contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, it's only a matter of time before political junkies start playing the vice presidential name game. And there may be a Hoosier who could fit the bill.



Actually, a number of Hoosiers would be potentially appealing for an Obama ticket. There's Sen. Evan Bayh (D), though his problem is that his Senate seat would be filled by Gov.



“The proposed amendment to SJR-8 is interesting and intriguing. It honestly addresses the true cost of the repeal of homestead taxes.”

- **Senate President Pro Tempore David Long**



HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA

is a nonpartisan newsletter based in Indianapolis and published by NewsLink Inc. It was founded in 1994 in Fort Wayne.

Brian A. Howey, publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr. and Mark Curry, Washington Writers

Jack E. Howey, Editor
Beverly Phillips, Associate Editor

Therese Waechter, IT

Subscriptions:

\$350 annually HPI via e-mail;
\$550 annually HPI & HPI Daily Wire.

Call **317-254-0535**.

HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA

PO Box 40265
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265.

Contact Us

www.howeypolitics.com

BrianHowey@howeypolitics.com

Main Office: 317-202-0210.

Howey's Mobile: 317-506-0883.

Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535.

Washington: 202-256-5822.

Business Office: 317-254-0535.

©2008, **HOWEY POLITICS**

INDIANA. All rights reserved.

Photocopying, Internet forwarding, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or part, is a violation of federal law without permission from the publisher.

Mitch Daniels (R), potentially tipping a closely divided Senate. There's also former Rep. Tim Roemer (D), though Roemer is mostly a blank slate nationally.

Arguably, the most intriguing pick for Obama – in Indiana or anywhere else — could be former Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.).

At first blush, Hamilton seems an odd choice. He'll be 77 on Election Day. He's never run a national race. He doesn't lock in a swing state for the general election. And he has all the sex appeal of the think tank scholar he currently is, at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars in Washington.

But Hamilton offers a number of attributes that could play the yang to Obama's yin. Here are some of them.

- Hamilton is a political moderate. While Obama has so far found success selling a post-partisan, post-red/blue vision, it's only a matter of time before Republicans start poring over his Senate and state legislative record and unearthing a few too many liberal votes for some swing voters to swallow. Adding a self-styled moderate as his No. 2 would allow Obama to practice what he preaches in expanding his ticket's ideological reach.

- Hamilton has decades of experience in Washington, especially on foreign policy. If the Republican nominee is Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) - or even one of the other contenders save former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee - you can be sure that Obama's thin resume, especially on foreign affairs, will be a major part of the case against him this fall. Hamilton would neutralize that. Hamilton served in Congress from 1965 to 1999, including a stint as chairman and ranking member of the International Relations Committee. Yet

unlike many long-serving Members of Congress, Hamilton managed to leave the rough-and-tumble world of partisan combat with broad respect intact, a nice affirmation of Obama's themes of reconciliation.

- Hamilton would enable the Democrats to counter the Republicans' "ownership" of 9/11. Hamilton's service co-chairing the 9/11 Commission and the Iraq Study Group would offer the ticket a strong, common-sense foil to the Bush administration's record - and by extension, the record of most

Congressional Republicans - on both the aftermath of 9/11 and the Iraq War. These two high-profile commission assignments make Hamilton as well-suited as anyone to give Democrats credibility on those issues. He also provides a shot at forging a national consensus from the shards of national security divisiveness.

- Hamilton is battle-tested. He repeatedly won reelection in a red-tinged district, which should give

him an idea of how to compete in the swing territory Obama needs to win in November. Moreover, his work on the two commissions has given Hamilton recent experience with the Russert-Matthews-Stephanopolous television grinder. It also has made him better known nationally than at any time in his Congressional career.

- Hamilton has been out of Congress long enough that it would be hard to attack his voting record. There shouldn't be any worry of getting tripped up by a John Kerry-style "I voted for it before I voted against it" attack. Hamilton's last votes were cast three years before 9/11, making them ancient history.

- Hamilton doesn't have to worry about being branded a lobbyist. Other potentially interesting Democratic elder statesmen, such as former Sens. George Mitchell (Maine) or Tom





Daschle (SD), have become lobbyists, thus providing opposition researchers with a gold mine of potential dirt. Not so with Hamilton.

- Hamilton wouldn't pose a threat to the primacy of Obama. No worries about upstaging the candidate, as Kerry supposedly wondered about his ticket-mate, former Sen. John Edwards (NC), in 2004. Hamilton would be too old to run for president himself, a la Vice President Dick Cheney, yet he would be fully prepared to step into the presidency if needed.

- Hamilton isn't considered too close to the Clintons. By picking Hamilton, Obama could continue building his own network outside the sway of Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton, his primary opponent. Other potentially strong Democratic candidates for VP, such as retired Gen. Wesley

Clark or even New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, have ties to the Clintons that could prove awkward after a heated primary.

- Hamilton wouldn't necessarily bring Indiana into the Democrats' column, but his presence on the ticket could force the GOP to spend scarce money to keep it Republican next fall.

And last:

- Hamilton is available at a moment's notice. All he'd have to do is leave his think tank and not worry about who might gain the seat in Congress he's giving up. ❖

Jacobson is the editor of CongressNow, a contributing writer for Roll Call newspaper and the Out There columnist for stateline.org.

7th CD, from page 1

occurred with the death of U.S. Rep. Julia Carson and the defeat of Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson.

One Democrat we talked with this week called Saturday's caucus a potential "cluster f---." And this question was posed: Do you think the Democratic field will unite behind the winner?

The answer to that is likely to be "no." Unless State Rep. David Orentlicher wins the caucus on Saturday (and he might), he is already signaling he will run in the May primary. Others in the field: Councilman Andre Carson (generally seen as the caucus frontrunner), State Rep. Carolene Mays, Councilwoman Joanne Sanders, IceMIller attorney Randle Pollard and Marion County Treasurer Michael Rodman have entered the caucus. All are keeping their options open for the May primary. Other fringe candidates include Stephanie McCabe, Francie Nelson Williams and Jeffrey White.

Former Indiana Democrat Chairman Robin Winston decided against entering the caucus and said of the primary, "I'll wait and see what happens on Jan. 12."

The only person who said they wouldn't run against the slate at Monday's Indiana Equality forum was State Rep. Greg Porter, and then he didn't file for the caucus.

One potential candidate told **HPI**, "Why even enter when you know people aren't going to help you compete" on March 11?

Former Indiana and New York City health commis-

sioner Woodrow Myers has sent a letter saying he would skip the caucus and run in the primary. "I believe it is best to follow the normal schedule for the February convention and the May primary election," Myers said. "In my view Congresswoman Carson's unexpired term that will be filled in the March 11th special election, belongs to a candidate who will follow through on the projects she had already initiated, and do their best to complete them before that

term concludes later this year. It is my intent to compete for the new term in Congress that would begin in January 2009. That means in the near future you'll be hearing much more about my vision for a better Indianapolis."

Andre Carson enters this fray with the emotional edge, thanks to the machine that his grandmother forged. Even before she died, the Carson machine began fomenting the election of "The Seed." After key allies hid her terminal condition for months, former congressman Andy Jacobs Jr. endorsed Councilman Carson. At her funeral on Dec. 22, Rev. Louis Farrakhan and two members of the Congressional Black Caucus endorsed Andre Carson, something that "surprised" Orentlicher.

Numerous Democratic Party sources say that while many in the party see Andre Carson as a "good guy," they are increasingly turned off by the heavy-handed tactics of the dynasty. A number of Democrats we've talked to see Carson as a potential congressman, but say he hasn't paid his dues like Orentlicher, Mays, Porter and Rodman have. There has been great pressure coming from Lacy Johnson, Jacobs and Center Township Trustee Carl Drummer on caucus for Carson.



Randle Pollard



Whether it ends up perpetrating the Carson machine or backfires will be one of the key early story lines.

If Andre Carson can't secure 50 percent in the first or second ballots, the potential is great for chaos that could linger well into the election cycle.

In 1998, when State Sen. Lonnie Randolph resigned to accept a judgeship, there was a five-ballot caucus to determine his replacement. It became an East Chicago vs. Gary showdown. Sources say it wasn't resolved until East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick and then-Lake County Commissioner Rudy Clay (now mayor of Gary) huddled in a corner and cut a deal that gave the seat to Sam Smith.

With Carson's death and Peterson's defeat, there doesn't appear to be a commanding figure capable of uniting the factions.

On the Republican side, it appears to be a two-way battle between State Rep. Jon Elrod and former Jerusalem Post publisher Tom Rose. We see Elrod as the favorite as the Republicans caucus on Sunday.

Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi sent out a press release this morning saying he would not be a candidate in either the special or primary election. "When I ran for re-election, I pledged to the citizens of this county that I would wake up every day working to make their families safe from crime," Brizzi said. "I am committed to serving my term as prosecutor and making our streets as safe as they can be." ❖

Orentlicher prepares for an 'aggressive' election sequence

INDIANAPOLIS - State Rep. David Orentlicher kicked off his campaign Tuesday at the Martin Luther King Center and **HPI** Publisher Brian A. Howey conducted this interview with him shortly after he finished speaking:

HPI: What have you been doing to prepare for this since Congresswoman Carson's funeral?

Orentlicher: We've been doing two things. We've been meeting with supporters to raise funds. This is going to be a very expensive race, so we want to be well financed. We've been recruiting volunteers. I've been talking to the precinct committee people. calling them, meeting with them, and trying to get their support.

HPI: All 520?

Orentlicher: Oh no, we're not there yet. By the end of the week we'll get to all of them.

HPI: What kind of response are you getting from them? Do you have a realistic shot in the caucus?

Orentlicher: Yeah, I'm getting a very strong response. I think the people's view is that I'm one of the



State Rep. David Orentlicher at his campaign kickoff Tuesday at the Martin Luther King Center. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

frontrunners and that I'll probably be in the top two and we're working to improve on that.

HPI: Who do you see as your greatest rival?

Orentlicher: I think there's a lot of emotional support for the congresswoman's grandson. We're looking at this election as finishing out her term. I think some people think it might make sense.

HPI: When you heard Rev Farrakhan and the Congressional Black Caucus members endorse Andre Carson at the funeral, what went through your mind?

Orentlicher: I was surprised to see that at a funeral. You know you did hear a number of comments coming from family members.

HPI: How much money do you think you're going to have to raise?

Orentlicher: We have an expensive media market. By the end, this is going to be more than a million dollars on each side. By the time of the primary, maybe around a half million.

HPI: You mentioned health care and Iraq. Are those the key issues on the minds of precinct committee people?

Orentlicher: Those are important issues. I want to make sure we talk about job creation and the economy. At a certain time, reassuring people their jobs will be there and reassuring people.

HPI: You've got a full plate with the tax crisis, the Indiana General Assembly and now a caucus, two and possibly three elections. You must be very organized.

Orentlicher: I've always been a hard-working candidate and representative. I think people know they see me everywhere, I knock on doors, I do what it takes. We'll find the time and I've got a great foundation of supporters. We expect to have a first-class organization. ❖



Classic Clinton win in New Hampshire

By **MARK CURRY**

Washington, D.C. - Hillary Clinton's victory in Tuesday's New Hampshire primary effectively ended any speculation of an early resolution to the Democratic presidential nomination process.

Polls conducted as late as Sunday indicated the New York senator lagged behind Barack Obama by several points, sometimes in the double digits. Even Clinton's own private surveys predicted a decisive defeat. One campaign operative told a reporter on Monday that the Clinton campaign intended to spin anything less than a 10-point victory by Obama. Instead, she won by just less than 8,000 votes - or about 2.7 percent of the state's Democratic electorate.

Talk of change took center stage in the last days of the campaign, but in the end it was classic Clinton, and downright traditional Democratic politics, that won the day. Last week's loss in Iowa, plus the increasingly unsettling trends in New Hampshire polls and elsewhere, caused Hillary to upend her game plan just 36 hours or so before the vote. Monday morning dawned an all-new candidate. The vigorous, tough and shrewd persona that stormed Iowa and early New Hampshire morphed into a gentler, vulnerable and more sensitive woman.

Molly Parkington, a 32-year-old mother in Concord, told USA Today that she was vacillating between a vote for Obama or Clinton when she was moved by news reports of Hillary being near tears Monday when describing her feelings about the election.

"She seemed a lot more real at that moment," Parkington said. "It just made me decide to vote for her. They're pretty close on the issues."

Political analysts continue to scratch their heads at the Clinton victory two days later. Polls are vital to these

campaigns because fundraising and strategy are directly wired to public opinion. And, just as importantly, polls drive most media coverage. It's no surprise that Clinton's upset has unhinged the political establishment. Surely this election will intrigue historians for years to come. Part of the answer may be rooted in Bill Clinton's experience in the 1992 Granite State primary, when the Arkansas governor finished behind the late Sen. Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts.

Dante J. Scala, an assistant professor of politics at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H., authored the book, **Stormy Weather: The New Hampshire Primary and Presidential Politics**. Scala wrote that Clinton won by assuring his national strategy would not end with a New Hampshire disaster. Even in defeat, the author asserted, the future president displayed a broad base of support, drawing from working-class city wards and from suburban elites, which is where his wife found many of her votes 15 years later. Influential State Sen. Lou D'Allesandro told the author that Bill Clinton was a flesh-and-blood politician who excelled at connecting with people, that he was "a people hugger and a people grabber." Newspapers have carried similar descriptions of the "new" Hillary over the past few days. Much has been written about the value of Bill's support of Hillary's campaign, but again, Scala's research into the 1992 contest offers an insight concerning the 2008 race.

Stories abound of how Bill kept in close contact with Granite State Democrats well beyond the primary, the professor wrote, noting that he hosted a New Hampshire Day in the White House, inviting several hundred local Democratic elites to discuss politics. Bill established several long-term relationships during this time, and it's not too much of a stretch to imagine Hillary continues to benefit. Scala cited Portsmouth activist Anita Freedman, who said, "When I hear anybody bad-mouth Bill Clinton, they don't get away with it if I'm sitting there."

It's also not too much of a stretch to suppose Indiana Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh can rightly take some small pride in his contribution to Hillary's most recent victory. As reported by **HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA DAILY WIRE** on Tuesday, the one-time presidential hopeful was making telephone calls and knocking on doors as part of a star-studded, all-out effort to win voters to Hillary's cause. Bayh, who has been visiting New Hampshire since his father's run at the nomination in 1976, established a firm ground game late in 2006 as he weighed entering the current fray. Just days before Evan elected to drop out of the race, **HPI** cited the vice chair of the New Hampshire Democratic Party, who said Bayh "has a lot of friends here...."

"He's been coming up here helping out candidates and local parties for a number of years," Ray Buckley said during a telephone interview with **HPI** conducted in

**PRESIDENTIAL
Politics 2008**



A question from Marianne Pernold Young in a Portsmouth cafe and Hillary Clinton's answer may have saved her campaign. The irony is that Young voted for Obama



December 2006. "He has a lot of strong relationships with people that go back to the days 30 years ago when his dad ran for president. He also was very involved in assisting us in this year's election. He was very engaged, very involved in assisting the election of the house majority and the senate majority, but he also provided support for county candidates and for the governor and for the state party as well. Of all the candidates, he really was the most engaged in really assisting candidates directly."

Tuesday's victory demonstrated Hillary's ability to marshal the campaign's resources and strategies. By preventing an Obama victory, she ensured the Democratic race will extend at least into Super Tuesday, Feb. 5, when more than 20 states will host elections. Whereas early state contests are personal affairs waged during hundreds of appearances by the candidates, subsequent elections rely almost solely on organization and strategy. Resources will be spread across a vast and varied machinery, with even the best-funded and well-known candidates struggling to be heard above the din. If New Hampshire is any indication, Hillary is well poised for what looks to be a memory-making battle with Obama.

Questioner voted for Obama

Many commentators - including **Howey Politics Indiana** - credit tears in the eyes of U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton in Portsmouth on Monday as fueling her stunning comeback Tuesday night in the New Hampshire primary. But the woman who asked the question, Marianne Pernold Young of Portsmouth, voted for U.S. Sen. Barack Obama. "The Friday before Monday, I went to a Barack Obama rally

and I was moved to tears, not once, but twice," Young told CNN. He has this enormous electricity and I was just taken aback."

Young asked Clinton on Monday, "My question is, how do you do it? How do you keep so upbeat?" Clinton's response is widely credited with reviving her flagging campaign as it led off most Monday evening newscasts and played heavily on Tuesday. "You know I have so many opportunities for this country," Clinton responded as tears welled up in her eyes and her voice wavered. "I just don't want to see us fall backwards."

As the crowd applauded this spontaneous moment, Clinton added, "This is very personal for me; it's not just political. It's not just public. I see what's happening. We have to reverse it." Young explained, "I'm in shock my simple, honest genuine question created such an uproar. I was asking it as a friend, woman-to-woman. I did not expect that response. I did not expect the tears. I was touched and totally in awe that she would open up to all of us there in such a delicate manner." In Iowa, Clinton lost out to Obama among women 35 percent to 30 percent. In New Hampshire, Clinton won female voters 46-34 percent. Obama won male voters, 40-29 percent. But female voters outvoted male voters, 57-43 percent. Her victory went counter to almost all pre-primary polls and even Fox News' exit polls which predicted a 5 percent Obama victory early Tuesday evening.

Kerry to endorse Obama today

U.S. Sen. John Kerry is expected to endorse Obama this afternoon in South Carolina. ❖



Evan Bayh in February, 2005, during an exploratory trip to Manchester, N.H., with State Senators Lou D'Allesandro, Joe Foster, Manchester Welfare Commissioner Paul Martineau and Alderman-at-Large Mike Lopez. (Flickr Photo)

2008 State Presidential Polls

Michigan (R)		McCain	Romney	Huckabee	Giuliani	Paul
Rossman Group	Jan. 6-7	18	22	23	8	3
South Carolina (D)		Obama	Clinton	Edwards		
Rasmussen	Jan. 9	42	30	15		
Insider Advan	Jan. 7	40	33	15		
Nevada (D)						
AGR	Dec. 1-6	18	45	14		



Hoosier House Republicans have yet to embrace presidential candidates

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON - Hoosier Republicans' thinking about their party's presidential nomination reflects why the race is in flux: Not only is no candidate captivating, each of them seems to have significant flaws.

Rep. Mike Pence (R-6th CD) has not yet endorsed any of the top Republican hopefuls--Sen. John McCain, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

"I've not got to a place where I've found a candidate that embodies all the reasons I became a Republican," Pence said in an **HPI** interview.

Pence said a candidate must support a strong military, limited government and the sanctity of life and marriage to earn his imprimatur. No one stands out so far. "Each of them has strengths in particular areas and weaknesses in particular areas," he said. He stressed he will support the eventual nominee in the general election.

Former Rep. Mike Sodrel, who is challenging Democratic Rep. Baron Hill for the 9th CD seat he lost in 2006, holds a similar view. "Every candidate has a strong suit," Sodrel said in an **HPI** interview. "But (voters are) not finding everything they want in one candidate."

Like Pence, Sodrel has not made an endorsement. "I'm still doing a lot of soul searching," he said.

McCain, Romney, Huckabee or former Sen. Fred Thompson of Tennessee could yet get Pence's backing in the primary. He rules out Giuliani because of the mayor's support for "abortion on demand and gay marriage."

But the other candidates also have drawbacks, according to Pence. For instance, he likes Huckabee's stance on social issues like abortion. But he's skeptical about Huckabee on economic and education policy because of what he says is Huckabee's history of raising taxes and spending while limiting school choice.

"I just spent the last seven years battling the president of my own party who was a strong social conservative but had a penchant for big government," Pence said.

Pence, who has traveled to Iraq with McCain, admires the senator's unwavering support for the war. He also calls McCain "a real champion of limited government, fiscal

discipline."

But Pence strongly opposes McCain's signature campaign finance bill, which Pence says limits free speech, looks askance at McCain's vote against President Bush's tax cuts in 2001, and questions his approach to global warming.

Although Pence believes that Romney is sincere about the conservative positions he's embraced on social issues, he hesitates over Romney's "fairly recent conversion" from more liberal policies he pursued as Massachusetts chief executive.

Sodrel, who founded his own bus and trucking company in New Albany, cites Romney's business background as a strength. "He understands a balance sheet and has read a profit and loss statement," he said.

He also salutes Huckabee's proposal to replace the income tax with a consumption tax because it eases cost pressures on manufacturers.

"I view that as much a jobs bill as a tax bill," Sodrel said. "It makes

our products more competitive in the world market."

Sodrel is lukewarm about McCain and rules out Giuliani. "Giuliani would not be helpful in this district," Sodrel said, referring to the former mayor's liberal social views.

Whoever emerges as the nominee will have a face a daunting challenge in the general election. Republican fundraising and enthusiasm lag far behind that surrounding the leading Democratic candidates, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama.

In New Hampshire, both would have trounced McCain, the GOP winner, if it were a general election. Clinton garnered 90,796 votes and Obama 84,519. McCain received 70,138. "Republican voters are demoralized and frustrated," Pence said. "Conversely, Democratic voters are highly motivated."

The recent GOP majority in Congress let down its supporter with its profligate spending and scandals, Pence said. But he expects Republican voters will be energized for the general election this fall, when the GOP candidate faces a Democrat who, in Pence's view, would withdraw from Iraq, promote a bigger government and embrace a liberal social agenda. "That is anathema to Indiana voters," he said. "This is going to be the most bright-line election since 1980."

Sodrel anticipates a challenge for both parties given the mood of the electorate.

"It's pretty volatile," he said. "People are unhappy about a lot of things." He mentions immigration, the loss of jobs due to international competition and rising taxes. "I don't think they're happy with either party," he said. ❖



Pence and McCain after their Sorga Market tour in Baghdad on April 1, 2007.



Why did the polls get it wrong in New Hampshire?

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - Tuesday night, after watching the Hoosiers dismantle Michigan on TV, I walked over to my local Chinese restaurant on Connecticut Avenue in Washington to pick up some carryout and watch the election returns from New Hampshire. Upon leaving The Uptown Cathay as Hillary Clinton was holding onto a 3-point lead over Barack Obama, I ran into my friend David Fishlow. Fishlow had been former New York Mayor David Dinkins' campaign press secretary. I asked him what he thought of Hillary's comeback. He said, "Dinkins always did better in the polls than he did on Election Day. People feel a moral compulsion to consider a black candidate. But when push comes to shove, some just won't vote for him." In 1989, Dinkins had held a double-digit lead over challenger Rudy Giuliani in polls conducted just days before the election, but won by only two points.



Indeed, there has been a "racial effect" identified in several high profile races over the past 25 years. It was first commented upon when Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley lost his 1982 bid for governor of California. The polls consistently showed Bradley with a lead over Republican George Deukmejian. Some media outlets even declared Bradley the winner based on exit polls. Similar voting behavior was cited in a race in which I was involved, Douglas Wilder's narrow victory over Marshall Coleman in Virginia. A Washington Post poll taken less than a week before the election showed Wilder with an 11-point lead. I represented Wilder in the recount that followed in what was the closest gubernatorial race in Virginia history. The same racial effect has been cited in Harvey Gant's 1990 losing race against Senator Jesse Helms in North Carolina and Harold Washington's narrow win for mayor of Chicago in 1983, among others.

Tuesday night, some in the media like Chris Matthews of *Hardball* seized on the "Bradley effect" to explain why virtually every poll and pundit had predicted Obama would bury Clinton in the New Hampshire snow. Most sounded as if they were grasping for reasons to justify why they were so wrong.

It would be naïve to think that race no longer plays a role in American politics. The "Bradley effect" is real, I saw it at work first-hand in Virginia, and I have witnessed racial politics in countless campaigns since then. Polling in races involving black candidates or a substantial number of black voters is unquestionably tricky. Indianapolis radio personality Amos Brown has frequently criticized methodol-

ogy in polls conducted in Indiana for under-sampling the African American vote. For example, Julia Carson handily defeated Ann DeLaney in the 1996 Democratic primary for Congress after an Indianapolis *Star* poll showed DeLaney the likely winner.

But there are differences between what happened in the New Hampshire primary and those of other campaigns which argue that Hillary won for reasons other than race. For one, Obama is a different kind of black candidate who rarely mentions race. If anything, he has benefited so far by his race because most Democrats view him as a unique candidate who can take the country beyond the racial divisions of the past.

Secondly, New Hampshire is not a state where there is a history of racial divisions, primarily because the state like Iowa is mostly white. There is no history of politicians playing the race card New Hampshire.

This is not to say that race could not have played a minor role in Hillary's victory. But there are other more compelling reasons which explain the outcome. As someone who has worked there on presidential campaigns, I can attest to the fact that New Hampshire voters are very independent—even those who have a party preference. I do not believe they took kindly to being told by the media for five days leading up to Tuesday who was going to win. Hillary Clinton became a sympathetic figure because the media, especially the ubiquitous Chris Matthews, were bashing her unrelentingly, as did John Edwards. Democratic women took the attacks personally.

There were other factors. Some independent voters concluded that their vote would count more in the Republican primary and voted for McCain. Also, the percentage of young voters who helped propel Obama in Iowa dropped off in New Hampshire. As a result, Obama lost strength among women voters which was exaggerated in Iowa because of the huge turnout among younger voters. Finally, Clinton's ground game was much superior in New Hampshire than it was in Iowa, while Obama's was not nearly as good. Hillary was able to deliver a record number of women voters and they voted for her.

Respected pollster Peter Hart says the polls missed Hillary's surge because they stopped polling before the surge began. Almost 40% of voters decided on primary election day. New Hampshire was highly fluid, first with Obama getting a bounce from Iowa and then Clinton getting one the ground. Her surge was triggered by events in Saturday night's debate when Obama and Edwards appeared to be ganging up on her. It improved as the networks played her "tearful moment" endlessly. And, her election was sealed with a first-rate ground game.

It all came together for Hillary Clinton in the snows of New Hampshire. But she faces tough sledding in the weeks ahead in Nevada, South Carolina, and on Super Tuesday. ❖



2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels, La Ron Keith. Democrat: Jim Schellinger, Jill Long Thompson.

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: As we've been reporting over the last couple of weeks, the Schellinger campaign is a mess, even though it reported \$2.4 million. Indianapolis Star columnist Matt Tully called it "uninspired," "lackluster" no policy proposals (despite a property tax crisis). The candidate dodges interviews. From our perspective, Tully nailed it. The Schellinger campaign has been one of the absolute worst we've ever seen at the gubernatorial level ... perhaps the worst since Linley Pearson's 1992 debacle. A candidate has to stand for something. What does Jim Schellinger stand for other than "listening?" We have no clue. When we spent a couple of hours with Schellinger last February as he was kicked off his campaign, he promised to communicate. **HPI** had a five-minute interview last April, another sometime in May, and then any time we tried to talk with him, we got Mike Edmondson. The policy proposals were always a couple of days, then a couple of weeks away. By mid-summer, we just stopped trying to figure him out. A travel date for the writer with the candidate? No interest.

Whether you like Gov. Daniels or not; whether you agree with him or not, you at least know where he stands on the issues. You know where he is going to take the state. He is promising to make 2008 a referendum on future direction. But with this Democratic field, there are virtually no clues. Zero policy. They've completely ducked the most critical policy debate in a decade. These are candidates who represent the Indiana Democratic Party, and yet beyond Speaker Bauer's ridiculous tax rebate, what do they stand for? Virtually nothing.

We're expecting Thompson to show at least \$700,000, but she has yet to release any kind of detailed financial data.

We're moving the status of the general race this week. **Democratic Primary Status:** TOSSUP. **General Status:** LEANS DANIELS

2008 Congressional

Congressional District 2: Republican: Luke Puckett. 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:** Puckett is signalling to supporters that he will run, but we haven't heard from him yet. **Status:** LIKELY DONNELLY

Congressional District 5: Republican: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, Dr. John McGoff. Geography: Media Market: Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend. People: Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. 2006 Republican Primary Result: Burton 61,150, Alfred 6,869, Wakley 4,822. 2006 General Result: Burton (R) 133,118, Carr (D) 64,362, Sharlow (L) 7,431, Miller (I) 18. **2008 Forecast:** McGoff has sent an e-mail to supporters that says he's raised \$250,000. "That \$250,000 is nearly three times what all of Burton's opponents combined raised over the past three election cycles," McGoff said. "It will go a long way toward victory, but we still need to raise more in order to ensure we can get our message spread." **Primary Status:** Leans Burton

2008 Legislative

House District 89: Republican: Holly Davis, Christopher Swatts. Democrat: John F. Barnes. **2004 Results:** Buell 15,391. **2006 Results:** Buell 7,809, Barnes 7,297. **2008 Forecast:** Warren Township resident Chris Swatts announced his candidacy. Swatts will be participating in the upcoming Marion County Republican Slating Convention on Feb. 16. "My candidacy will be about the citizens of the Eastside and the important everyday issues that we face in the district such as property taxes, jobs, crime and education. I will effectively represent the citizens by listening and learning their concerns as I continue to meet with them in the community," Swatts said, citing his work in the state auditor office, the Indianapolis Chamber and currently with SallieMae, Inc. **Status:** Leans D. ❖



Some palpable paranoia on taxes and reform

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – There was a palpable paranoia in the halls of the Indiana Statehouse as the General Assembly returned on Tuesday. Legislators know they must do something - maybe anything - to stem the perceptions of the property tax crisis. Gov. Mitch Daniels' 1-2-3 cap 'n cut plan was getting mixed reviews and took a bit of a body blow on Tuesday when Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Chairman Luke Kenley told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, "The circuit breaker is pivotal, and I'm not quite sure if we have the right answer."



Hmmmmmmmm.

That had to send a shudder through House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer and House Democrats. From the day Daniels unveiled his plan last October, Bauer has signalled a willingness to play because both he and the governor need it. But that cooperation is contingent on the Daniels administration keeping the Senate GOP in line. Kenley's quote was a little fissure in that facade.

Behind that facade is a Hoover Dam of unrest as Senate conservatives ponder and push SJR-8, the constitutional amendment that would repeal property taxes. "I'd like to get rid of all property taxes, but I don't know if that's possible or if we have the fortitude," said Sen. Mike Young, R-Indianapolis. "We can accomplish the elimination of homestead property tax in the state of Indiana for our citizens."

Sens. Young and Brent Waltz were pushing the idea of taxing services to replace some of the revenue. Senate President David Long wouldn't commit to a floor vote, though it appears he has departed from his predecessor in allowing some bills to escape the Senate Rules Committee, once a grave yard for legislation.

Long explained to the **Terre Haute Tribune-Star**, "The proposed amendment to SJR-8 is interesting and intriguing for several reasons, First, it honestly addresses the true cost of the repeal of homestead taxes. This differs

from other repeal proposals which have never addressed the true cost of replacing property tax revenue. It also deals with the fundamental driving force behind the state's property tax revolt, which is homeowner's taxes."

That had to provoke a little indigestion on the second floor as Gov. Daniels appears resolute to steer things away from a repeal.

Long said that he expects the committee to reconvene in the coming days, but wants to "make certain the plan is workable and acceptable before asking colleagues to vote on the proposal."

So the door is hardly closed on the repeal and proponents predict if it hits the floor, it will pass. State Sen. Beverly Gard told the **Muncie Star Press**, "I am open to anything. If we can make the numbers work, that is great."

There were also indicators that Kenley's stature with the conservatives has diminished. Many blame him for caving in to Bauer and House Ways & Means Chairman William Crawford on the tax rebate scheme last April, believing it set off the property tax crisis that hit in June. "There's been a lack of contrition on Kenley's part," said one Senate conservative. "We expected a Jimmy Swaggert moment ... 'I have sinned against you.' When that didn't happen, it left a lot of us shaking our heads."



Tax protesters made their presence known a week ago at the Indiana Statehouse. About 100 people turned out for Tuesday's Senate hearing.

House Republicans were lining up solidly behind Gov. Daniels today. They released their tax priorities, which included, immediate property tax cut by May 2008; strong state and local spending caps; permanent 1 percent of assessed valuation homestead cap; remove schools and welfare from property tax; make caps and levy removals permanent; referenda for local construction and budget increases; school construction projects built on local option income tax; fund all cuts with sales tax alone; single assessment official in each county; and permanent elimination of homestead property tax.

Gov. Daniels reacted quickly, putting out a coordinated statement today that said, "On behalf of taxpayers, I applaud the supportive stance taken by the House Republican caucus on our tax cut proposals. It's another step toward the biggest tax cut in the history of our state. Coupled with the bipartisan progress the Senate has taken this week to reform the assessment process and control local borrowing, it shows there is momentum in both houses and both parties toward the consensus we need to pass historic tax relief, both immediate and permanent."



The other fascinating aspect of this is the lack of movement from Gov. Daniels on the Kernan-Shepard Commission recommendations. While legislation passed out of committee to move assessing functions from the 1,008 townships to the counties as well as referendums on school projects, the administration is not pushing much of the rest of the package.

Sen. Mike Delph, one of the Senate conservatives, has filed SB333 that would create the single county executive, eliminate township government and require all school board members to be elected during general elections.

"We have a responsibility to taxpayers to examine Indiana's outdated and expensive system of government and collectively reduce the cost for Hoosiers," Delph said. "I would like to commend the Kernan-Shepard Blue Ribbon Commission for



Sen. Kenley is facing some challenges within the Senate Majority Caucus over the tax repeal issue. (HPI Photo by Brian A.

bringing forth, as Governor Daniels calls it the 'road map to reducing the cost of government.' It's now the legislature's responsibility to continue this discussion and bring about change."

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee voted 5-4 on SB16 that would shift the assessing duties. What is interesting here is the bipartisan nature of the vote, with Democrat Sen. John Broden joining Republicans Delph, Gary Dillon, Connie Lawson and Phil Boots. Voting no were Republicans Mike Young and Sue Landske and Democrats Tim Lanane and Robert Dieg.

Shadowing the three-ring circus were taxpayers, with 100 showing up for the repeal hearing Tuesday. Leon Dixon of Muncie stated the reason for the aforementioned paranoia: "If (lawmakers) don't understand what transpired here today, they need to be replaced." ❖

Supreme Court may break on party lines over Indiana voter ID law

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON - Conservative members of the U.S. Supreme Court seemed to be more sympathetic toward an Indiana voter identification law than their more liberal colleagues during an oral argument about the controversial measure on Wednesday.

Later this year it will rule on the constitutionality of Indiana's requirement that election participants show a government-issued photo ID at the polls in order to cast a ballot. If its internal deliberations reflect the public reaction of justices, the high court may breakdown along political lines.

Chief Justice John Roberts, who grew up in Indiana, may lead the way in defending his home state's law as a way to prevent election fraud, based on his questions and statements at the court hearing.

Roberts noted that the plaintiffs, a melange of

groups including the state Democratic Party, had not come up with evidence that anyone has been denied a vote based on the law, which the state legislature passed in 2005 when Republicans were in the majority.

Democrats assert that the law discriminates against the poor, minorities and the elderly, among others who may have trouble affording or getting access to identification such as a driver's license.

They brought the case forward before specific victims have been found in order to prevent anyone from having their fundamental right to vote curtailed, according to Paul Smith, an



Secretary of State Todd Rokita believes the U.S. Supreme Court will uphold the Indiana voter ID law and insisted that no one had been disenfranchised. (Richmond Palladium-Item Photo)



attorney for the state Democratic Party who argued the case before the Supreme Court.

Advocates say the measure will strengthen the integrity of the election process by preventing fraud. Indiana is one of seven states that requires voters to produce photo identification. A federal law passed in 2002, in the wake of the disputed presidential election results in Florida in 2000, requires anyone who registers to vote by mail to show a photo ID or another official document indicating name and address if he or she hasn't previously voted in a federal election.

Under Indiana's law, people who vote in person without proper identification can cast a provisional ballot. Within 10 days, they must produce appropriate identification to have their ballot counted. In November's municipal election in Indianapolis, 34 people voted provisionally, according to the Marion County Election Board. Two went through the process to qualify their vote. About 165,000 people voted in the capital's mayoral race.

Echoing the arguments of the defendants, which include the Marion County board and GOP Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Roberts said that a small percentage of people in Indiana don't have a photo ID.

Indiana Solicitor General Thomas Fisher told the court that an "infinitesimal number" of voters could be affected by the law, perhaps 25,000 or so. "The vast majority of voters are already in compliance with this law," he said. The Bush administration supports the state position.

Smith put the figure at 400,000, saying that half of them are registered to vote and most are low income. He emphasized that that is the population that is most likely to be disenfranchised by an ID law promoted by a partisan executive and legislative branch of government. Poor and minority voters tend to lean Democratic.

"This is an area where judicial review is most important," Smith said. But quantifying the problem is one struggle the justices face in addressing alleged problems caused by the ID law. "How are we supposed to do it?" asked Justice Stephen Breyer.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a stalwart of the liberal side of the court, said that the 34 people forced to use a provisional ballot demonstrate that there is a po-

tential problem. "That's not hypothetical," she said. "That's real. It is real that there will be many people whose vote will not count." She said that the poor are most likely to suffer. "That burden is put on every person who does not have a photo ID," she said.

In one of his lines of questioning, Roberts asserted that the state will assist those who lack identification. "They say, if you don't have one, we'll help you get one," he said.

Smith maintained that the process is difficult. He said that Lafayette Urban Ministries ran into problems helping people obtain birth certificates and driver's licenses. "They were in this bureaucratic maze and couldn't get out," he said. He also said that validating a provisional ballot requires voters to make their way to a local courthouse.

Roberts was unmoved by that argument. "County seats aren't very far for people in Indiana," he said.

While Democrats concentrate on the voters who may be hurt by the ID law, Republicans stress how it combats potential election fraud.

Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, another court conservative, devoted queries to this area. Roberts highlighted that 41 percent of the names on Indiana voter rolls are duplicate entries or are people who have died.

"Don't you think ... that presents a significant potential for fraud?" he asked Smith.

Smith downplayed such concerns. "To call it scant is to overstate it," he said. But Alito pressed the point. "There would be no need for a photo ID requirement if there were no problem whatsoever," he said. When Ginsburg and Breyer suggested ways to make it easier for people to obtain a photo ID, such as providing a process for

obtaining one at voter registration offices or polling places, Fisher defended requiring a formal document like a driver's license.

"We would want to have an ID that has some integrity to it," he said. "The General Assembly is legitimately concerned about voter confidence."

After weighing all the arguments, the Supreme Court is likely to hand down a decision this summer, just before a pivotal election in November.

For Ginsburg, the priority is to make sure that poor people aren't denied their chance to vote. "They do have a burden it seems to me the state could easily eliminate," she said. ❖



Chief Justice John Roberts asked several questions about the potential for fraud and Indiana's willingness to assist voters who lacked identification. (Lugar Senate Photo)



Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star - One thing is clear: Jim Schellinger, once the perceived sure thing for the Democratic nomination, a man with all the party and fundraising connections, has run one of the more uninspired campaigns in recent memory. Ten months after the Indianapolis businessman entered the race, it's a good bet most Hoosiers haven't heard of him. Good luck finding a Schellinger policy proposal. Other than his fundraising success and the fact that polls suggest any Democrat would be competitive against Daniels, Schellinger's campaign has been a lackluster one. The problems are now being exposed by a campaign shakeup. In recent weeks, Schellinger has tossed or lost his campaign manager, field director, finance director and at least two policy consultants. "The campaign continues to grow every day," Schellinger spokeswoman Candace Martin said via e-mail about the departures, "and we are preparing for the more engaged phase of the campaign." Is the room spinning? There is, of course, nothing wrong with making staff changes. Many candidates have lost elections because they refused to make needed changes. But the pace of departures at the Schellinger campaign has alarmed many Democrats. After all, you rarely see heavy turnover at healthy campaigns. And you rarely see a candidate without a campaign manager four months before a primary. Schellinger dodged my requests for an interview. But Democratic operatives close to his campaign say it has been a disorganized one. A small advisory team assembled by Schellinger has met only once. Staffers who were selected to play key roles are out. Former campaign manager Mike Edmondson had a falling out with the candidate, party and campaign insiders said, in part because of Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Dan Parker's involvement, and because Schellinger never made clear who was in charge. That left the campaign without a clear direction. Meanwhile, former Rep. Thompson has run a more spirited campaign than Schellinger's team expected. She recently snagged several key union endorsements and has polled well. Her aides dismiss Schellinger as "the insider candidate." Monday, Schellinger announced he'd raised \$2.4 million in 2007. His team has long argued he would crush Thompson financially and boost his name ID with heavy pre-primary advertising. Many supporters, even disillusioned ones, continue to believe that strategy will carry Schellinger to the nomination. Perhaps they're right. Schellinger has indeed proved he can raise cash. But as a candidate, he hasn't proved much else. ❖



sound. (Actually, Huckabee likes angling for bass, too, but let's stay on topic today.) When the former Arkansas governor won the Republican Iowa Caucuses on Jan. 3, surprised politicians speculated on the reasons Huckabee beat better-funded big names like Mitt Romney, John McCain and Rudy Giuliani. The experts insist Huckabee, once a Baptist minister, appealed to Iowa's Bible-belt through his conservative stances on cultural issues and tough-on-Wall-Street economic populism. Maybe. But what about Huckabee's ability to reach out to a neglected group of voters — America's bass players? He is one of them.

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Michigan now matters. Neither party's national committee wanted Michigan to be in this place, but it is. Iowa caucus results make it unlikely that any candidate in either party will be able to claim unstoppable momentum for nomination after the first two traditional vote tests of the presidential quest. First test: Iowa. Republican winner: Mike Huckabee, defeating Mitt Romney, thus depriving Romney of what once seemed to be a realistic chance to win the first two tests and gain that unstoppable momentum for the GOP nomination. Democratic winner: Barack Obama, defeating Hillary Clinton, who has had a commanding lead among Democrats in polls taken nationwide and seemed poised to establish unstoppable momentum for her party's nomination. Second test: New Hampshire. The primary there is Tuesday. Huckabee hasn't been doing well there, although he will receive some boost from his Iowa win. Either Romney or a surging John McCain is likely to win the Republican primary. On the Democratic side, Clinton has had a strong lead there and is in good position to keep Obama from a second victory. Even another Obama win wouldn't end the Clinton effort nationally. Third test? Michigan. There hasn't been much attention paid to what comes right after Iowa and New Hampshire. But it's the on-again, off-again, now on-again Michigan presidential primary on Jan. 15, exactly one week after the New Hampshire vote. In pushing its primary up to that date, Michigan defied the national committees of both parties. As a result, there has been limited presidential candidate campaigning in Michigan, especially on the Democratic side. Some key Democrats took their names off the primary ballot. And penalties could include loss of all delegates to the Democratic National Convention and half the delegates to the Republican National Convention. But there will be campaigning in Michigan now. Romney, whose father was a Michigan governor, already has been on Michigan TV. He will go all out now to win in Michigan, either to add to a New Hampshire victory and capture the front-runner role that escaped him in Iowa or to salvage his campaign after two losses. ❖

Mark Bennett Terre Haute Tribune-Star - Whether he knows it or not, presidential candidate Mike Huckabee has an untapped bass of support at his fingertips. Did I misspell that? No. I meant bass — not the short-A fish, but the long-A musical instrument with four thick strings, a long neck and a rumbling "thump-de-dum-dum"



Ashcroft/Zimmer deal drawing scrutiny

WASHINGTON - When the top federal prosecutor in New Jersey needed to find an outside lawyer to monitor a large corporation willing to settle criminal charges out of court last fall, he turned to former

Attorney General John Ashcroft, his onetime boss (**New York Times**). With no public notice and no bidding, the company awarded Mr. Ashcroft an 18-month contract worth \$28 million to \$52 million. That contract, which Justice Department officials in Washington learned about only several weeks ago, has prompted an internal inquiry into the department's procedures for selecting outside monitors to police settlements with large companies. The contract between Mr. Ashcroft's consulting firm, the Ashcroft Group, and Zimmer Holdings, a medical supply company in Indiana, has also drawn the attention of Congressional investigators. The New Jersey prosecutor, United States Attorney Christopher J. Christie, directed similar monitoring contracts last year to two other former Justice Department colleagues from the Bush administration, as well as to a former Republican state attorney general in New Jersey. Officials said that while there had been no accusations of wrongdoing on the part of Mr. Christie or Mr. Ashcroft, aides to Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey were concerned about the appearance of favoritism. Mr. Ashcroft was awarded the contract last fall at the direction of Mr. Christie as part of his office's settlement of criminal accusations against Zimmer Holdings and four smaller firms accused of paying kickbacks to doctors. In its filing with



the Securities and Exchange Commission, Zimmer said it had agreed to pay the Ashcroft firm a monthly fee of \$750,000, and to reimburse it for expenses that were expected to total \$150,000 to \$250,000 a month.

Work at Getrag plant suspended indefinitely

TIPTON - Construction of a \$530 million transmission plant in Tipton County has been suspended indefinitely (**Kokomo Tribune**). "Until the parties can reach an agreement, we're at a standstill right now," said Randy Cyman, personnel director for Getrag, handling the Tipton development. "We're in discussions with Chrysler right now. ... I'm confident the parties will come to the right decisions." Dave Elhsoff, a spokesman for Chrysler, said company officials are aware the construction work is on hold. "We're hopeful construction can resume after the meetings this week between both companies," Elhsoff said. "We expect construction can resume without any significant impact to the project's timeline." Sources indicated there are several items the two parties want to address, including the price of each transmission and how many would be produced for Chrysler.

Great Lakes compact approved by committee

INDIANAPOLIS - A Great Lakes water agreement won't seem like such a big deal to Northwest Indiana residents swimming and boating in Lake Michigan, and that's the point (**Post-Tribune**). "People won't see much difference in their day-to-day lives," state Sen. Karen Tallian said Wednesday after the Senate Energy and Environmental Affairs Committee approved the Great Lakes Compact.

Bill would set sheriff pay

TERRE HAUTE - A battle

between St. Joseph County Sheriff Frank Canarecci and other county officials over the sheriff's pay may now have a second front. Canarecci filed a lawsuit last week naming the county auditor, commissioners and council as defendants and alleging the council violated state law by cutting his salary because he has been keeping money from property tax warrants he collects (**South Bend Tribune**). He is seeking reinstatement of the roughly \$70,000 cut from his salary for this year and \$14,000 in back pay. Now a bill co-sponsored by a local legislator in the Indiana House of Representatives would set a minimum salary for county sheriffs but require those sheriffs to deposit money they earn from collecting tax warrants into their county's general fund. Canarecci's situation makes the issue timely, says co-sponsor David Niezgodski, D-South Bend, but the issue had already been under consideration before this situation arose.

Muncie Council chaos now a YouTube hit

MUNCIE - Cary Malchow joined the ranks of Star Wars Kid and Numa Numa Dancer on Wednesday morning (**Muncie Star Press**). He became an Internet phenomenon, albeit on a much more local scale. Malchow made local headlines when he asked Muncie City Council on Monday to investigate a Democratic council member, Monte Murphy, accused by Republicans of illegally collecting absentee ballots from voters in his district. The request was received poorly by the largely Democratic council. Decorum deteriorated, chaos ensued and council President Sam Marshall ended the meeting while Malchow was in mid-sentence. On Wednesday morning, audience member Dana Reif posted the Malchow speech to YouTube.com, a popular Web site for user-generated videos. "A picture is worth a thousand words," Reif said. "But a video is worth 10,000 words."