



Bayh surveys reforms in Senate

Democrat seeks centrist solutions on health, finance and labor reforms

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Autumn of 2009 finds U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh facing huge public policy debates once health care reform moves out of the two Senate committees and on to the Senate floor.



As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, he faces a situation where

the financial sector is engaging in some of the reckless practices that brought the U.S. to the verge of a calamity. And there is the card check legislation that has brought him into the crosshairs of business and labor



interests.

HPI sat down with Sen. Bayh for more than an hour on Monday at the Downtown Marriott and asked the

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Rokita's gold star

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPOUT - You have to give Secretary of State Todd Rokita a gold star.

He's trying to put up a good fight before the fight over drawing new boundaries for Indiana legislative and congressional districts begins. The census required to produce figures for the next redistricting two years from now hasn't even started yet, but Rokita is already attacking the issue on a Web site and in an op-ed.



Unfortunately, at some point the reality will set in and many will come away from the redistricting process wondering how legislators could ever



“Dave Woerpel is ... very, very powerful, very, very political and you guys arrested him. Roy, that’s the dirtiest trick I’ve ever seen.”

- **HAMMOND MAYOR THOMAS McDERMOTT JR.**, to *Lake Sheriff Roy Dominguez* over arrest of ally



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come up with some of the bizarre districts they do. Taxpayers expect a science to drawing districts, and what they get is political science. In a perfect world, all legislative districts would be divided along county lines or highways so we all could easily understand who represents what. But folks, this world is far from perfect.

To be fair, past legislatures have done some things to make redistricting a bit more sensible. The 1991 redistricting process did away with most of the two-member districts which gave both parties an unfair advantage because they could leverage just enough of a majority to get multiple members into the district. The 2001 redistricting effort centered congressional districts around major metropolitan areas so that Fort Wayne, South Bend, Gary, Indianapolis and Terre Haute all had their own virtual congressman.

But Rokita is setting the legislature up for failure because of several factors beyond his control and some beyond theirs:

1. Population shifts.

A growing urban population around Indianapolis and Lafayette will draw the legislative strings tighter in those areas. That means congressional districts in both cases will be more compact in two years unless Indianapolis and Lafayette are carved up for multiple members of Congress. Steve Buyer and Andre Carson already share Marion County, but Carson has the majority. For the rest of the state, districts will become broader in some cases to account for the population growth in those two areas in particular.

2. The numbers game. Natural boundaries don't always reflect the minimum population numbers required for a legislative district or a congressional district. Since northern Indiana has more population than southern Indiana, legislators and members of Congress will continue to represent wide expanses south of U.S. 40. This explains in part why Buyer's 4th District seat takes in a portion of Lawrence and Monroe counties.

3. Media markets. Part of being an effective legislator is being able to effectively communicate with constituents. That requires some connection other than direct mail such as a newspaper, radio station or television station. Media markets tend to take in several counties and also make it easier for candidates of both parties to campaign.

4. Territorial boundaries.

Like it or not, no one likes to be the bearer of news that redistricting has taken away the bulk of the people who voted for you and placed you in a district with another incumbent or two, who may or may not be from the same party. Don't look for many legislators to draw themselves out of a job with plenty of perks. It would make sense for Lafayette and West Lafayette to be represented by Ron Alting, a Republican from Lafayette, but don't look for another GOP senator, Brandt Hershman, to give away much of what he has in Tippecanoe. Additionally, Hershman works for Buyer, who would probably relish a more compact 4th District seat than he now has.

5. National shifts. Again, like it or not, Indiana could lose another congressional seat. It forced some radical changes in 2001, and if it happens again, look for districts to become more vertical from Lake Michigan to the Ohio River.

6. Retirement. If Rep. Dan Burton does retire after the next election, and some observers expect that will happen, it produces an X factor in the congressional redistricting game. His district extends from the Indianapolis area north to Peru along U.S. 31. This district is unwieldy and staunchly Republican. It would make sense to consolidate some of the northern precincts in the district with either the 2nd or 3rd districts.

7. Party pressure. Party officials on both sides of the aisle will push for majorities. With Republicans controlling the Senate and the governor's office, there likely will be some



horse trading to squeeze out districts with slight majorities for either party. I know how shocking a statement that may seem, but this is, after all, politics.

8. The national atmosphere. Given Indiana's swing to a blue state in 2008, the pressure will be on Indiana Republicans and Democrats to win House and Senate majorities in the legislature and capture a statehouse since Mitch Daniels won't be able to seek a third term.

Bayh, from page 1

senator about the topics that will likely thrust him into the headlines in the coming months.

Financial crisis

HPI: Are you concerned about Wall Street lapsing into the problems that prompted the meltdown last year? There are a growing number of media reports that suggest that many lessons have not been learned.

Bayh: That is a real concern. You could look at my comments from a year ago. I anticipated that once the crisis faded, the momentum for reform would dissipate in the face of a lot of special interest pleading. We're not going to let that happen. We were on the cusp of an economic calamity around this time last year. Things have been bad, but we did avoid a repetition of the Great Depression. So shame on us if we don't keep that kind of thing from happening. Chances of a good reform bill that deals with excessive risk taking and a variety of things that undermined our financial system are very good. It's a top priority of mine and the President's. So we're going to take a look at these institutions that are "too big to fail" and they'll be subjected to a much more stringent level of oversight and the amount of leverage they can utilize. Another way to do that is to increase the kind of capital reserves they have to have so if they make decisions that go against them it doesn't jeopardize their institution as a whole. We're going to look at the incentives that exist whether they're in the compensation structure or some of the lending patterns. They had every incentive to take a lot of risk. It was all upside for them. If it didn't

Reform redistricting? It's like trying to draw a line in sand – shifting sands. Just when somebody thinks reform has been accomplished, the playing field changes, and so do the boundaries.

What Rokita is proposing isn't a bad thing, but it's not as easy as it looks. In the end game, Hoosiers should not get their hopes up for sweeping change they, or anyone else, can believe in two years from now. ❖

work out, they didn't bear much of the downside. We're going to look at changing that.

HPI: When companies like Lehman and Bear Stearns were failing, weren't there other mid-sized companies that could have stepped up?

Bayh: Some of the steps that had to be taken to avoid a calamity, I think middle class taxpayers were rightly very concerned about. And the question was to let them go. What's in it for us? The bottom line was we couldn't let the economy go down and the financial system collapse not because we cared about Wall Street. Forget them. There

would have been a lot of middle class in middle America see their livelihoods go down. We cannot allow ourselves to be put in that position again. If the Wall Street guys fail, we have to have a structure that allows them to fail without having Main Street ride to the rescue. That's the place where we're going to end up and that's what I'm fighting for.

HPI: But weren't their medium-sized companies that could have filled the void when Lehman failed?

Bayh: That's absolutely possible. It was going to happen. There was going to be a huge domino effect. The system was so interconnected that the failure of one large or two large failures was going to set off a cascade of failures across not only the financial system but the industrial players. For example, GE, which employs thousands of people in our state and part of that company called GE Capital, they were within 24 to 48 hours of going broke. It could have taken the whole company down. There would have been thousands

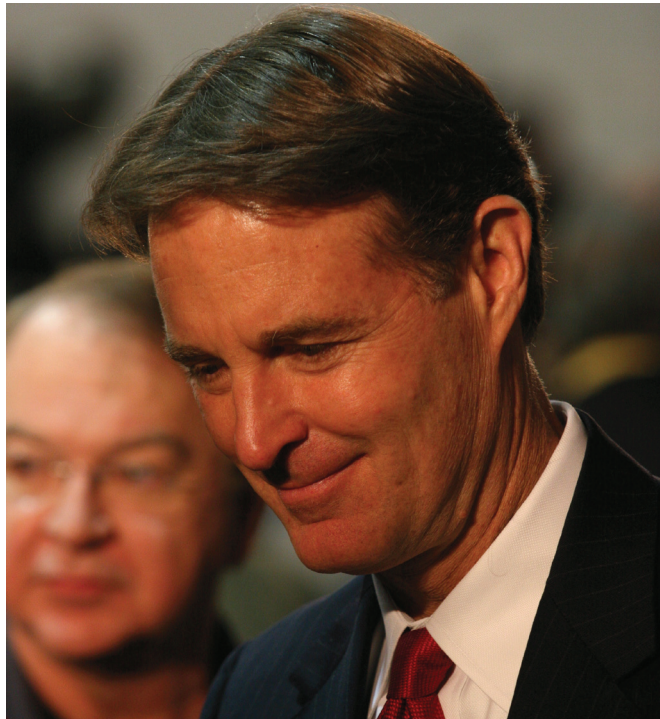


'We were on the cusp of an economic calamity around this time last year. Things have been bad, but we did avoid a repetition of the Great Depression.'



of job losses across Indiana. We had a big debate over whether to save the automotive sector. Nobody wanted to do that. But it was the choice of the least bad alternative. Allowing GM and Chrysler to go under would have jeopardized the supplier system that even the Japanese companies and Ford relied on. Communities that relied on those companies would have been hurt. The bottom line was one of the more sobering things I've had to deal with over the last 11 years; and I remember 9-11 very clearly and the aftermath. A similar experience was sitting around a table a lot like this and we had the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke, and Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and about 10 or 12 senators on the Banking Committee, and the head of the federal reserve is not given to hyperbole or overstatement, but he said if we didn't act, the global financial system in the next 48 to 72 hours would be in complete meltdown. It would lead to the loss of millions of jobs and thousands of businesses and dramatic harm to the American people. When you hear that from him, that's a pretty sobering thing. It was coming from conservative Republicans. The last thing they wanted to do was have government intervention. But they knew the alternative was even worse. And they were right. One of the challenges we face is to unwind the steps we've taken to protect the taxpayers, but do it in an orderly way. These were steps nobody wanted to take. Now they need to be unwound and they need to be put in a system to ensure we never have to do anything like this again; where we have to face the devil's choice between allowing for the complete collapse of the economy or bailing them out, which puts the taxpayers at risk.

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HPI: Are the TARP funds be repaid and will the government be able to sell it's 60 percent stake in General Motors?

Bayh: You're asking me to make a guess and nobody's got a crystal ball on these things. One thing we know for sure is that some of the TARP funds have already

been repaid. The healthiest banks have already returned the money they took and we've made money on that. The taxpayers have made billions of dollars on what was borrowed by JPMorgan and Goldman Sachs. That might not be completely reflected on what will eventually happen because the stronger ones are repaying and the weaker ones aren't in a position to do that yet. And the weaker ones are paying interest on that right now. The taxpayers are making a pretty good rate of interest on these. My best guess is we're going to make money on some, lose money on some and how it will net out at the end of the day, I don't know. Hopefully it will be a wash. But what I do know is we would have lost a lot more if we had allowed the entire economy to collapse. You have to look at TARP, but you can't look at it in isolation.

HPI: And GM and Chrysler?

Bayh: On the automotive side of things, we've got to hope for a robust recovery in the automotive market. The higher the stock prices rise - we're all stockholders - the more money we'll make back. How much we'll recover and what period of time that will be, we'll have to ask Warren Buffett. AIG is in the process of selling off assets to pay us back, so I hope they do well. Barack Obama did not instigate these things. These programs - TARP, AIG, the auto bailout - were all started under a conservative Republican

can president and secretary of the treasury.

HPI: Well, we're not hearing too much commentary about the socialist wing of the Republican Party these days.

Bayh: This was a heretofore undiscovered wing of the Republican Party.

HPI: When I wrote my lead up to the Iraq War in March 2003, I wrote that the Bush presidency was putting everything on the line and then in the seventh paragraph I quoted Warren Buffett saying that the derivatives were the ticking time bomb for the American economy. That was in 2003. You were on the Banking Committee. Didn't you see



this coming?

Bayh: What nobody knew was the large amount of leverage that was being used on those things. It's not the derivatives by themselves. It's the amount of risk that was taken; the magnitude of it. People were not aware of that. What no one knew was that large amounts of money were being borrowed and people were placing huge bets on these things, which then imperiled the viability of these financial institutions and imperiled the viability of our economy. No one knew that because there was not enough oversight of what was called the shadow banking system. That's something that's got to change. One other thing that has to change: all the countries of the world have to work together to make sure the people who engage in these kinds of transactions can foreign shop and do their business in countries with the loosest regulatory standards. And that existed before. The Wall Street guys were saying, "You can regulate these derivatives if you want to, but business will just move someplace else. The same amount of risk will be taken on. You'll just have fewer Americans doing this kind of thing. You'll lose jobs, you won't limit the kind of risk that has been taken on and that makes no sense." We have to avoid that by coming together with the Europeans and others as much as we can, having a common system regulating derivatives. So to answer your question, were there people aware of these things called derivatives? Yes, absolutely. Was there anybody who knew there were these huge bets that imperiled the system? No. That's something that has to be corrected. There have to be exchanges so that people know what bets are being made, how big the bets are, and people can assess the risk. Before it was just a shadow system that was very oblique.



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Health care reform

HPI: I was with Sen. Lugar last night and he said there will be more than 500 amendments to the Baucus bill.

Bayh: And that's just in the Finance Committee, let alone what happens when it gets to the floor.

HPI: Help my readers understand what will likely happen between now and Thanksgiving and what role do

you expect to play in creating a final bill?

Bayh: I think the chances are better than 50/50 that by Thanksgiving we'll have health care reform that will be good for the American people. There will be a lot of twists and turns along the way, but I hope the process goes like it's supposed to. The left and the right will have exhausted themselves shouting at each other and those of us who are looking for a practical solution to the ever-rising health care costs eventually will deliver a bill that will work for the country. Not an ideological bill. Not a partisan bill, but a practical thing. So what are those concerns? Aggressive insurance reform. I think it's almost certain the President will sign a bill that will prohibit the denying of coverage for people with a pre-existing condition. That will no longer be a case, so if you've had a health issue, if a

loved one has had a health issue, you will not be denied for that. This whole issue of lifetime caps, the policies that say we'll cover you but if you get real sick we'll drop you, that's going to be done away with. So if you get cancer or heart disease or something like that, your insurance will remain in place. There will be limits with the kind of co-pays and annual fees you can be charged. If you lose your job, you will no longer lose your coverage. So middle class families will no longer be worried about security and stability. Those things will be addressed the moment the bill is signed. The other thing I hear about is affordability. You know, "I have coverage, but the premiums go up so much each year, it's hard to take. We're small businesses. We can't afford it." And here's how that will be addressed: for a small business and for individuals, the trouble there is if you're out just trying to get a policy on your own, it will cost you more because there's no

place to spread the risk.

HPI: Been there and done that.

Bayh: OK, so you know. Same thing for a small policy. If you're insuring five or six people and one of them gets cancer, the premiums are going to go up. In those situations there will be health care exchanges, which is a fancy way of saying we're going to put together all the individuals so they can bargain together and all the small



businesses together so they can market as a group. I think you'll actually see small businesses who actually provide coverage having costs going down. For individuals with large companies who get the economies of scale, the savings will be about 7 percent lower than what they otherwise would be, which is not dramatic, but it's better than nothing. I think you'll see some things from companies like Safeway or AT&T. They said, "Our health costs are killing us." They had to get their costs down so they tried preventive care. They've tried reimbursing the quality of outcomes. If you are a provider of health care services, you are being reimbursed for the amount of health care you provide; how much volume. So being rational people, they try to provide as much volume as they can. That drives the price up. We need to change the model to reimburse them for the quality of their outcomes. There are some steps like that in this bill. But since you can't put an exact dollar figure on the savings, the Congressional Budget Office says, "If we don't know, we're not going to make an estimate." What they are willing to estimate is that the savings will be about 7 percent, but hopefully more. The final component is we've got to deal with the deficit. The country is going broke. We can't afford that and it is being driven primarily by health care costs. There are some good things about the Max Baucus proposal. It's not perfect, but the amendments will make it better. The Congressional Budget Office said it would reduce the deficit. It's a step in the right direction. It might reduce it more than anticipated.

HPI: Republicans are concerned about these three things: Gov. Daniels is concerned that the Baucus bill will shift Medicaid costs to the state and that's something you spent eight years grappling with as governor. They are concerned about malpractice costs for doctors. And the ability to purchase insurance across state lines.

Bayh: Buying across state lines should definitely be done.

HPI: Is that in the Baucus bill?

Bayh: I honestly don't know. We have to have robust competition in the marketplace. There are barriers to that competition because of state boundaries. Some of these jurisdictions have 90 percent of the market with one

company. There's got to be more competition than that. I would be predisposed to support that. Having been a governor, I'm not a fan of unfunded mandates. I know the House bill was a problem. I know in the Baucus bill there are a number of other provisions that dramatically soften the impact of that. I don't know enough about the details yet to tell you what they are. I don't want to burden the states because states are struggling now. As you know, in the jobs bill we provided a lot of money to the states. My guess is that Indiana's budget would have been a nightmare without the money for education and Medicaid.

HPI: And malpractice reform?

Bayh: The President said he had an open mind about that. We have a system in Indiana. I have an open mind on that. For people who suffer horrific injuries, there ought to be a way to compensate them appropriately, but this practice of defensive medicine just drives the costs up.

HPI: There's a lot of speculation on whether President Obama will accept half a loaf. He's probably not going to get everything he wants.

Bayh: The American people know we need to do something. Costs are going up too much. The deficit is being driven by health care costs. We've got to get the deficit under control. They want us to act. Yet at the same time they are skeptical about how effective big government can be. So they would like us to reform the private marketplace and then have the government there to act only when that's absolutely necessary. That's the balance they want us to strike. And that's the balance I think the President wants to strike. There's wide agreement on 80 percent of this; good things that will really help people. The pre-existing exclu-

sion thing, we shouldn't keep action from being taken on that because we're disagreeing on some other thing. That wouldn't be right. At a minimum we ought to do all these things that people can agree on. The problem is that we've been obsessing on the other 20 percent. Should we try to get as much of that 20 percent done as we can? Absolutely. Will that involve some controversial and hard decisions? You bet. But we ought to get done what we can and argue about the other 10 or 15 percent that isn't done. I'm a little concerned that the definition of success has been defined in such aggressive terms that the right will attack



'Having been a governor, I'm not a fan of unfunded mandates. I know the House bill was a problem. I know in the Baucus bill there are a number of other provisions that dramatically soften the impact of that.'



a sensible bill, the left will say that's chump change, even if it's historic steps forward that actually help millions of people in pretty significant ways. The definition of success has been defined in ways of buyer's remorse if we get something done. I've heard people at the White House say this all-or-nothing approach would have led them to vote against Social Security back when FDR proposed it or Medicare under LBJ. When the original Social Security bill was put into place, it didn't cover dependents. There was no annual increase in the cost of benefits. There was no disability coverage. All of these good things have been added over the years. We shouldn't make the perfect the enemy of the good. We should have an open mind to come back in successive years and build on what's been done. This all-or-nothing approach doesn't work well with the American people. We can't afford to do nothing, but it shouldn't keep us from getting a lot of good things done that help people in real ways just because we can't get everything done. That's a position for ideologues to take. Ideology very often doesn't work well. We've got to be practical. The President said, "Look, we've got to focus on the ends of what we can achieve for the American people." Lower costs, more security, getting the deficit under control. If there are a variety of ways to achieve those ends, we shouldn't obsess about that. You have to focus on the ends and the results and not so much on how you get there.

HPI: And what will be your role as the Senate health bill evolves?

Bayh: I'm not on any of the committees that are dealing with this. I'm not on Finance or Health. So I've been an interested observer. My role will depend somewhat on which path they choose to take. My guess is they're going to make every effort to get this thing to pass with 60 votes. If that's the path they choose to take I think I can have a more significant voice. If they decide they can't get the 60 votes and decide to go to 50, then each individual senator can come forth because they can afford to lose 9 or 10 votes and try to get something through. There's some real disadvantages to that. But we'll just have to see. I'm going to do my level best to become a strong voice for practical reform that will bring results to middle class fami-

lies who are struggling with this issue. That's what I care about. I'm not an ideologue. I care about results. I'm going to be a voice for sensible consensus. You've got some people on the far right who stake out a position where you get nothing done. You have some folks on the far left who have an ideological position and want the single payer system. It's just not going to get done. And that would lead us to doing nothing. The far left and the far right will lead us to nothing. The American people deserve better.



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Card check

HPI: Where are you on card check? I noticed all the labor guys filing out of here as I arrived and I see you have all your limbs still attached.

Bayh: I'm for reform of the labor law system. I've said that repeatedly. I think there are problems with the election process getting strung out months and months and months. Some of the penalties for either side committing abusive conduct are either meaningless because they're too small or they get strung out for years and it doesn't have an impact. And when you do have successful elections, sometimes the negotiations go on for years and the results of the elections are frustrated in that. At the same time, I think preserving the secret ballot is a good thing. The hardest issues are what do you do once there's been a successful election and there's just an impasse at negotiations? I don't think we're going to have binding arbitration. But is the

mechanism short of that? Is it some sort of last best offer? Is there some sort of finding of bad faith trigger? Some sort of action for mediation? I don't know. I'm not on the committee that handles that, either, so I am an observer. I'm hoping we can reach a sensible compromise. Many in the business community this summer felt this is going to go off on an irrational way. I've heard their concerns. But many in the business community say, "Look, if you can preserve the secret ballot, have reasonably prompt elections, meaningful penalties for those few bad actors out there, then there is some incentive for people to bargain in good faith." Many in the business community would support that kind of thing. Many on the labor side would say that's not everything they want, but it's a step forward. So I'm hopeful we'll end up in that place. Only time will tell. I told the labor guys this and this is above my pay grade, but I don't think we're even going to vote on it this year. ❖

HPI Photos were taken by A. Walker Shaw at Elkhart on Feb. 15, 2009



‘We’ll See ...’ *Obama, Lugar, Bayh* *survey ‘dicey’ prospects* *in Afghanistan*

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

FRANKLIN - Eight years ago - after the Sept. 11 attacks, the anthrax scares, and Beltway snipers - the United States arrived in Afghanistan. In just a few months U.S. forces, agents and bombers had obliterated the Taliban, sent Mullah Omar underground, and Osama bin Laden to his caves. Many believed that was the end of the story.

We’ll see.

Afghanistan was a place that used to mean wasted news hole on meaningless topics as journalism schools railed against “Afghanistanism.” It was an inhospitable place that swallowed empires, as the British and Soviets painfully learned.

And in October 2002, with Indiana’s U.S. Sens. Dick Lugar and Evan Bayh voting for the Iraq war resolution, Afghanistan took a backseat in the American Humvee. It became the forgotten war, with interest spiking on peculiar events such as when former Arizona Cardinal safety Pat Tillman was killed there. The Tillman case is emblematic of the cruel twists a place like Afghanistan can serve up. Once a poster boy of American patriotism who enlisted after Sept. 11, we learned that Tillman was killed by friendly American fire, and that a coverup so he could be a post-mortem cover boy reached all the way up to the Bush-Cheney White House.

By the end of the Bush presidency, this forgotten war shuffled back to the front burner. Fortunately, the worst case scenario has not emerged from Iraq as U.S. forces are now garrisoned outside the major cities. But the cruel twists in Afghanistan await President Barack Obama. Some say it could become his Vietnam.

The worst case scenario is emerging in Afghanistan, where military leaders like NATO commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal warn in a leaked memo: “Failure to

gain the initiative and reverse insurgent momentum in the near term (next 12 months), while Afghan security capacity matures, risks an outcome where defeating the insurgency is no longer possible.”

During last Sunday’s talk show blitz, President Obama noted that he was “skeptical” of ramping up troops there. “Until I’m satisfied that we’ve got the right strategy I’m not gonna be sending some young man or woman over there — beyond what we already have,” Obama said on NBC’s Meet the Press. “I’m not interested in just being in Afghanistan for the sake of being in Afghanistan or saving face or, in some way ... sending a message that America is here for the duration.”

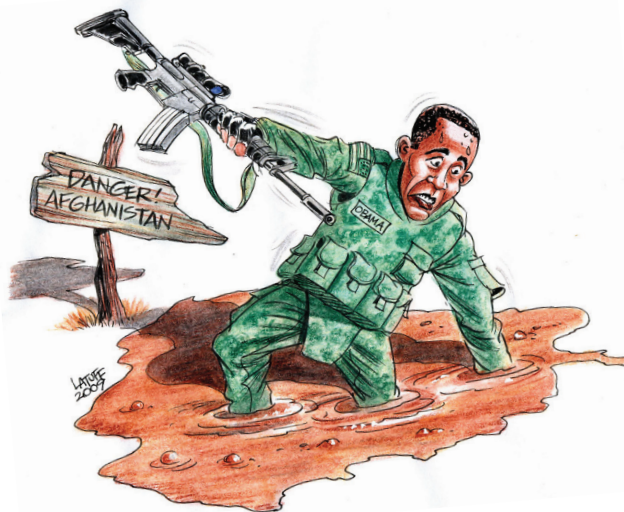
On ABC’s This Week, Obama added, “We’re going to test whatever resources we have against our strategy, which is, if by sending young men and women into harm’s way, we are defeating al Qaeda – and that can be shown to a skeptical audience, namely me, somebody who is always asking hard questions about deploying troops - then we will do what’s required to keep the American people safe.”

What has become clear is what Sen. Lugar described as a “vigorous” internal debate within the White House over what to do next. Vice President Joe Biden, a Lugar friend and confidant, has been pushing to scale back American forces and focus more on rooting out al Qaeda there and in Pakistan, the New York Times reported.

Obama met in the Situation Room with his top advisers on Sept. 13, including Biden; Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates; Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; James L. Jones, the national security adviser; and Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Obama rejected Biden’s approach in March and it is not clear that it has more traction this time, the Times reported.

They reached no consensus, so three or four more such meetings are being scheduled. “There are a lot of competing views,” said one official who, like others in this article, requested anonymity to discuss internal administration deliberations.

Secretary of State Clinton opposed Biden in March, according to the New York Times, and said on PBS Monday, “Some people say, ‘Well, al Qaeda’s no longer in Afghanistan.’ If Afghanistan were taken over by the Taliban, I can’t tell you how fast al Qaeda would be back in Afghanistan.”





Skepticism? No surprise

HPI pressed Lugar during his appearance Sunday at Franklin College's 175th anniversary kickoff lecture. Told of the president's news show skepticism, Lugar said, "I am not surprised he would give that summary of his views at the moment. My friends who are at least somewhat privy to the White House conversations understand that vigorous arguments have been perceived there."

During Senate Foreign Affairs Committee hearings last week, the White House did not participate. "This is one reason why White House representatives are not coming over to our hearings and testifying publicly," Lugar said. "It's one reason why Gen. McCrystal has been asked not to make his recommendations too soon. There may be an internal debate going on that is incompatible to what he may ask for."

But during his opening statement at the committee on Sept. 17, Lugar said the time for "studying" the situation has come and gone. "The President is the commander in chief and he is the one who will make the final choices from the options he is presented," Lugar said. "It is widely hoped that he will produce a coherent operational strategy for U.S. engagement in Afghanistan. Such an integrated strategy has yet to be unveiled despite the many high- and low-level reviews, and none has been described by the President with the force and conviction necessary to persuade the American people to endorse what will likely be a much longer, albeit necessary, commitment to achieve stability in the region. As he formulates his new strategy, I strongly urge the President to make a concerted effort to work personally with the Congress, which will control the purse strings for our endeavors in the region."

In the House. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence urged Republicans to support a continued war in Afghanistan. "Now is not the time for defeatism or withdrawal, but perseverance in the face of adversity to ensure a safe future, free from the threats of the Taliban and al Qaeda," Pence said on the floor of the House. "As our men and women in uniform continue to serve with distinction in Afghanistan, I hope the President will continue to give them the support they need, and rally the country to their side in this crucial front in the

war on terror."

On Sunday, Lugar said that Obama "faces a political problem within the Democratic Party in the Senate at least which is pretty substantial. There are a number of members who are questioning what our objectives are in the country, quite apart from whether we ought to have more people there."

Mobile force?

And he noted that many - apparently led by Biden - are pushing for something other than more troops in Afghanistan. "Some are suggesting al Qaeda may be in 10 or 20 places," Lugar said. "There may be al Qaeda people in Somalia, a recent attack on al Qaeda there, in Yemen which has been suggested as a potential harbor. There may be affiliates in Indonesia and the Philippines or wherever.

So the suggestion is why don't we have, as opposed to boots on the ground in Afghanistan, in greater numbers as we do now, a mobile force of troops of seamen, or airmen, whatever is required, in some Middle Eastern country in locations that are hospitable and from where they could launch attacks on people."

The problem with that strategy is at least two-fold. One is that a mobile strike force must have operational intelligence." Lugar noted, "This has been a major drawback with many questioning in Afghanistan and Pakistan how adequate our intelligence is. We have been asking the Pakistanis to share more and they are doing so."

Secondly, there is NATO in the midst of its first major military commitment off the European continent and its future could be at stake. "We have encouraged our allies from NATO to stay the course," Lugar said, adding, "bit by bit their parliaments are meeting. Many don't have many troops there but they are withdrawing them. Canadians are going to withdraw by a certain date. So we are left with the thought that if NATO is to have a future, particularly out of area, (the U.S. will have) to coordinate pretty close with people we have encouraged to send troops and have lost lives in the country."

Bayh open to temporary ramp up

Sen. Bayh echoed the notion of Obama's political problem with Senate Democrats, though he is not calling for a withdrawal. He told HPI on Monday, "It's a very hard



Sen. Lugar discusses Afghanistan with Franklin College students and press on Sunday. (HPI Photo by Beverly Phillips)



situation and regrettably immediately after 911 we went after the people who attacked us: the Taliban and al Qaeda. We had a lot of momentum in our favor and the opportunity to really stabilize the country was significant. Unfortunately Iraq then came along and diverted our resources and our attention. It put Afghanistan on the back burner. Regrettably the Taliban has gotten back on their feet and there are sanctuaries in Pakistan. So the situation is more difficult to solve than it otherwise would have been."

Bayh said he was open to a "temporary" troop ramp up. "We were attacked from Afghanistan. It's imperative that we don't allow them to become a platform from which to kill Americans and our allies. The question is how best to do that? If Gen. McCrystal and Bob Gates, who is a sensible man, and President Obama end up concluding that they think it will take temporary troop levels up as the thing to do, I would support that. Particularly to build up the Afghan forces. That gives us the best chance of leaving in a way that stabilizes Afghanistan."

And Bayh discussed the mobile force option. "Some people suggest that we could withdraw and use special forces and drones to deal with the situation," he said. "It's not quite so easy. In order to use drones and have Special Forces go in to take out bad guys, you have to have accurate intelligence. Very often you have to have boots on the ground to get the intelligence. And so my guess is it wouldn't be quite so easy to withdraw and deal with this. My guess is what we're looking at here is a temporary increase principally to train Afghan security forces and then we can withdraw, giving them a chance to be a stable country from which we will not be attacked."

Many Americans view Afghanistan through the mass media, including the 2007 Tom Hanks movie "Charlie Wilson's War." The Hanks character - U.S. Rep. Charlie Wilson - is seen at the end talking about helping the Mujahadeen defeat the Soviets before the U.S. withdrew: "They were glorious and they changed the world ... and then we f---ed up the end game."

Bayh was cautionary. "Afghanistan will not be a perfect place in our lifetimes," he said. "It's probably not

going to be the kind of place we will find acceptable in our lifetimes in terms of the kind of democracy they have, the economy, or any of those kinds of things. But it can be made successful enough that it is not a risk to the United States. I think that's the reasonable objective."

And Bayh added, "We're not in Afghanistan to help the Afghans. We're in Afghanistan because we were attacked from there and 3,000 Americans were killed. We're in Afghanistan because it's in the best interests of the United States that we're there. We should pursue that in any way that is sensible as possible. Once we can withdraw securely, we should. These are outcomes not ideal from the Afghans point of view. But we're paid to look after the interests of the American people, not Afghanistan."

Lugar characterized it as a "dicey" situation, particularly with mortal enemies Pakistan and India in the neighborhood and both with nuclear weapons pointed at each other. In Pakistan's case, the location and security of those assets appears to be - at times - beyond the scope of U.S. intelligence.



Sen. Bayh with then-Sen. Obama during a fact-finding trip to Afghanistan. (Bayh Senate Photo)

Gust's Zen Master

"There's a feeling on the part of Afghanistan and Pakistan that the last time around we withdrew abruptly, all of our troops," Lugar said. "So they have a school of thought there that it's likely to occur again. It leads to rumors that after all is said and done, our commitment has its limits and will be fairly short."

As for how this all turns out, the Philip Seymour Hoffman character in "Charlie Wilson's War" - CIA agent Gust Avrakotos - tells a story:

"There's a little boy and on his 14th birthday he gets a horse ... and everybody in the village says, 'How wonderful. The boy got a horse' and the Zen master says, 'We'll see.' Two years later The boy falls off the horse, breaks his leg, and everyone in the village says, 'how terrible.' And the Zen master says, 'We'll see.' Then, a war breaks out and all the young men have to go off and fight, except the boy can't because his leg's all messed up. And everybody in the village says, 'How wonderful.'"

To which the Rep. Wilson character adds, "Now the Zen master says, 'We'll see.'" ❖



Todd Young talks of health principles

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - For 9th CD Republican candidate Todd Young, until President Obama declares the so-called public option dead, it's still alive.

"It needs to be dead," Young told HPI at the Monon Coffee Co. in Broad Ripple on Monday. "It's a trojan horse for a single payer government-run health system."

Young hopes to challenge U.S. Rep. Baron Hill next year in what could be the most competitive general election congressional race in the state.

That path is not entirely clear. Former congressman Mike Sodrel has not ruled out an attempt for a fifth race with Hill with a decision coming sometime this fall.

Young has been active this summer. He hosted several town halls in Jasper and Brownstown on the health care reform topic; events he said that led to Hill finally holding late town halls in New Albany and Bloomington.

A former Marine who studied economics at the University of London, Young claims to have seen and experienced the British health care system while there. He offers an additional approach to health reforms, agreeing that something must be done to counter the escalating costs.

Young wants to see more competition for insurance companies. "I'd like to see insurance companies required to sell across state lines," Young said. He said the current ban is "unconstitutional" because of the interstate commerce clause.

He prefers a combination of employers offering catastrophic health plans along with medical savings accounts. He said such a system would emphasize preventive medicine and would give middle class families a financial break because they could get medical savings account funds that are unused during a given year. He favors cooperative insurance pools for small businesses and the self-employed and tax credits for the working poor.

Young estimates that about 5 million Americans left without options could be covered under Medicaid.

He is critical of the plan unveiled last week by Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus because his plan "won't bring down costs." And he notes that 40 years ago, 50 percent of health care costs were paid for out-of-pocket by consumers. That number is now 10 percent.

As for the 9th CD race, he said a potential Sodrel entry will not change his plans. "I've got great respect for

Mike, but I intend to stay in this race," said Young, who is a deputy Orange County attorney and practices law with his wife's family law firm, Tucker & Tucker based in Paoli. He and his wife live in Bloomington.

Some of the blogs were critical that he reported only \$90,000 raised during his second quarter FEC filing. Young said that while he began his campaign in January, he didn't aggressively begin to raise money until the second quarter. "I thought it would be beneficial not to ask for money from people until I'd met them," he said. Most of the \$90,000 was raised during the second quarter.



Young explained that the year Sodrel won the seat - 2004 - he had raised a similar amount of funds during the same time frame. "At the end of September, we'll be beyond that magnitude," he said.

Young said that he's been endorsed by half of the 9th CD county chairs and has had fundraisers hosted by Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, Attorney General Greg Zoeller and Treasurer Richard Mourdock.

HD30

Ending months of speculation, Republican Mike Karickhoff announced he is seeking the Republican Party nomination for the District 30 seat in the Indiana House, facing State Rep. Ron Herrell (Ken de la Bastide, Kokomo Tribune).

"We didn't select this site because of its natural beauty," Karickhoff said of his announcement site. "The vast expanse of empty ground behind me is a result of the failed U.S. steel industry in the global economy. We selected this location to make a point. The obvious truth here is that if we, as a region, state and nation, don't handle the complexities of a global economy correctly, the factories on U.S. 31 will begin to look like this property on West Markland, and that change will begin sooner than later." Karickhoff said he wants to maintain the manufacturing presence in Kokomo and see growth, but to be competitive, the government has to be resized and the work force has to operate in a different environment. "I'm looking at the big picture," he said. "A lot of legislation has been passed that had unintended consequences. We all like having lower property taxes, but I'm not certain everyone understood the consequences of getting those lower property taxes." ❖





Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette: The Joe Wilson froth and frenzy was depressing last week: Lots of people calling other people liars. Lots of assumption that I'm right and if you see it a different way, that means you're a deceitful, falsehood-pushing, dishonest scum bag. And maybe a racist. Unsettling though the public discourse was, there was something far sadder than the shrillness of the liar-liar-pants-on-fire accusations. The heartbreak of the week, it seems to me, was in 842 words on the New York Times op-ed page Wednesday. Thomas Friedman wrote of a California company that manufactures the machines that make solar panels. Applied Materials is a billion-dollar-plus company with 14 factories. This should have been a happy report about how an American company is producing the equipment needed to generate U.S. energy from a renewable source (the sun) and that the U.S. energy policy was encouraging and profiting from the solar panel maker. Instead, Friedman offered a tragic bit of news: None of those 14 factories is in the U.S. China, he wrote, "no longer believes it can pollute its way to prosperity because it would choke to death. That is the most important shift in the world in the last 18 months. China has decided that clean-tech is going to be the next great global industry and is now creating a massive domestic market for solar and wind, which will give it a great export platform."

Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal: Gov. Mitch Daniels last week weighed into the national health care debate with a letter to Indiana's congressional delegation that opposed the insurance reform plans currently under consideration. "There is no disputing the fact that aspects of American health care, such (as) access and affordability, truly do need to be restructured and improved," Daniels wrote. "Yet, I have serious concerns about Congress' proposed solutions to these problems. In fact, I fear the current rush to overhaul the system will ultimately do more damage than good and create far more problems than it solves." But as described in his letter, Daniels' opposition has as much to do with protecting the state's finances as it does with political philosophy. In fact, Daniels is part of a group of governors and other state government leaders across the country who are trying to draw attention to a part of the health care debate that has been largely ignored – an expansion of Medicaid. Medicaid is a joint state and federal program that provides health care to the poor. Although the rate can vary from state to state – as do the specifics of the program – the federal government pays about two-thirds of the health care costs while states pay roughly one third. So if Congress expands the program, it will cost both the federal government and state governments more. In Indiana,

an expansion could cost the state as much as \$724 million annually. That would be an increase of more than 40 percent in state Medicaid costs. Currently, Hoosier adults can qualify for Medicaid only if their family incomes are 23 percent of the federal poverty level or less. But some of the proposals under consideration in Congress would increase that limit to 100 percent to 150 percent of poverty. The latter would allow single adults making \$16,245 or a family of four making \$33,075 to qualify. But Daniels isn't just concerned about the money. He's frustrated that expanding Medicaid could undermine a relatively new state-run health insurance program, one that Daniels and lawmakers put in place to try to deal with Indiana's low-income, uninsured population.



Rich James, Post-Tribune: I've watched 11 presidents grace the television screen, and the Republican attacks on President Barack Obama are the most vicious I've seen. Not only have elected Republicans attacked Obama, but they also have turned a deaf ear when hearing others make outrageous allegations against the President. Sad to say, one of the worst examples involves an Indiana congressman. And then, there was Indiana's own Rep. Mike Pence, R-Columbus, hosting a public forum. After a woman called Obama "Hitler," I waited for Pence to douse the fire. Nope, he fanned the flames, instead. Pence turned to the woman and said, "Thank you." Thank you?

Mark Kiesling, Times of Northwest Indiana: The argument against photo IDs has been that they disenfranchise the lower-income voter because...why? They don't have a car, so they have no driver's license? Get a state-issued ID card. They can't afford the \$4 for a state ID? No problem. Hardship cases get one free. They have no car, so they can't get to the license bureau for a state ID? In Hammond, Gary and East Chicago, either the city or the township offers a dial-a-ride program or (at least for now) public transportation. No, the League argued and the Indiana Appeals Court agreed that because absentee voters and in-person voters were treated differently, this violated not the U.S. Constitution but the Indiana Constitution, which says state regulations must be uniform and impartial. But how are you going to require a photo ID from an absentee voter? By the very nature of the absentee ballot, the voter cannot be compared with any ID. The burden of proof must be different for an in-person vote, which means fraud prevention cannot be in lockstep uniformity. Make sure everyone who wants one can get a photo ID, free of charge and with free transportation to and from a license facility if necessary. But don't throw out the baby just because you don't like the bath water. ❖



Daniels is a thin-skinned name caller

By **SHAW R. FRIEDMAN**

LAPORTE - The governor's torrent of anger unleashed last week toward an Indiana Court of Appeals panel led by Judge Patricia Riley shows how utterly ill-equipped he would be to handle the national stage again. He's shown one more time that when things don't go his way, he tends to resort to name-calling or to questioning the motives, sincerity or intelligence of those he disagrees with.



There was the governor in the national spotlight attacking judges on our state's second highest court and impugning their motives as "transparently partisan." Despite clear ethical prohibitions that Daniels is under as an attorney to refrain from such obviously personal attacks, he went after Judge Riley in the most bitter of tones. Daniels

claimed the ruling in the hotly contested voter ID case "flies in the face of (rulings by) much better Judges." He maligned the unanimous decision of a three-judge panel as "preposterous" "extreme" and "an act of judicial arrogance."

Thankfully, the state bar association wasted no time taking the governor to task for his intemperate remarks. But this latest incident continues a pattern of thin-skinned, impulsive name-calling and inappropriate comments that aren't the mark of a statesman, but rather that of a partisan ideologue – hardly the ideal presidential candidate.

Daniels' impulsive and flippant ways were first on display when he served in the Bush White House. He got himself into trouble shortly after 9/11 as rubble was still smoldering at the World Trade Center. One senator spoke for many when he said that "nobody at this table can put a dollar on human life," which prompted then-OMB Director Daniels to stun those present with his remark, "Yes, we can, we've got figures on that."

So cocky and confrontational was Daniels with members of Congress that the director of the Center for Public Service at the non-partisan Brookings Institution, Dr. Paul Light, warned in prophetic fashion that "there is a question to be raised about how well Mitch Daniels would deal with the Indiana Legislature." Daniels was once described by Salon.com as someone who "blasts opponents with relish" and another publication, The Washington Monthly, once labeled him "Dick Cheney's Dick Cheney."

While certain conservative publications wax rhapsodic about Daniels as he gleefully cuts public services,

touts his privatization agenda and takes a meat ax to local budgets and public safety, Hoosiers know we've got a hard-nosed partisan sitting in the governor's office who has none of the sunny optimism or rhetorical flourish of the man he once worked for, Ronald Reagan.

Admittedly, we Hoosier Democrats are still scratching our heads that a certified blue collar Hoosier war hero, Joe Kernan (a sitting governor no less!) lost an election during a time of war by 10 points to a Princeton-educated, drug company executive who had never worn a uniform or spent a day in harm's way. This was the same cocky Mitch Daniels who recklessly insisted in 2002 that the Iraq War could be fought for \$60 billion tops (he was only off by a factor of ten!) and who stated the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy were "eminently affordable" and would leave "zero" contribution to the national debt.

Daniels has continued his petulant, name-calling ways by once branding Indiana's House Speaker a "car bomber." He charged that budgets could not be trusted to the House Ways & Means vice chair and he had no hesitation labeling the undersigned a "party hack" after a column was written that Daniels disagreed with that defended local government against another one of Daniels' broad-brush indictments.

While traveling out of town last week, I picked up the New York Times only to see that national publication describe the governor as "ridiculing" his own state's Court of Appeals and insisting the voter ID decision would be overturned. How in the world can Daniels confidently predict what the Indiana Supreme Court will do? Last time I checked, there were five independent-thinking justices sitting on the state Supreme Court who have yet to hear the case. He's essentially saying the Indiana Supreme Court has pre-judged the case. That in itself is preposterous and an insult to the judiciary.

The governor owes an apology to Judge Riley and the panel that issued the unanimous voter ID decision. Hoosiers have come to learn that Mitch Daniels is no diplomat and he obviously has little respect for our state's judges. He's got a partisan, in-your-face style that certainly won't win him friends in a presidential campaign. It's a sign of just how thin the Republican presidential field is that GOP and conservative columnists are seriously talking about a possible Mitch Daniels' candidacy.

Presidential campaign? The good people of Iowa need to be forewarned and forearmed about what's coming. ❖

Friedman is a LaPorte attorney who served as Legal Counsel for the Indiana Democratic Party from 1999-2004 and is a regular contributor to Howey Politics Indiana.



Free speech under assault

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Freedom of speech is under assault. In sports. In entertainment. In town hall meetings. Now, in Congress, too.

A tennis star is deprived of a chance to win just because she voiced threats of violence toward an official.

What's wrong with Serena Williams saying she was "going to shove this ball down your f----- throat" while gesturing toward the official, ball in hand?

An entertainer is widely denounced for jumping on stage to grab a microphone from an award recipient to say she wasn't worthy.

What's wrong with Kanye West interrupting an award program to humiliate a recipient whose selection he questioned?

Protesters at town hall meetings are denounced by critics as boorish and anti-democratic for shouting down members of Congress trying to present facts on health care.

What's wrong with drowning out people with whom you disagree and refusing to be confused by the facts?

A congressman is formally rebuked for violating basic decorum and civility for shouting "You lie!" at the President during a nationally televised speech to Congress.

What's wrong with Congressman Joe Wilson interrupting a presidential speech after the President said illegal immigrants wouldn't be covered by health reforms?

Freedom of speech is under assault in all of these cases because far too many critics portray the outbursts as a lack of civility, a departure from civilized conduct.

Well, what's so good about civilization?

Actually, First Amendment rights of free speech have been under assault since back when a Supreme Court Justice named Oliver Wendell Holmes conned the court into saying it's wrong to shout a false warning of "fire!" in a theater, causing panic.

What's wrong with some panic to thin out the audience and enable you to move into a front row seat?

Absolute free speech means the right to shout "fire!"

in a crowded theater without being charged like a criminal for mishaps in the resulting stampede, the right to shout threats of violence at a tennis official without losing a match, the right to grab a microphone from anyone at any event to shout disagreement with anything without being subjected to public scorn, the right to shout down anybody at any town hall meeting without being accused of failing to listen and the right to shout "You lie!" at the President in the House chamber without fear of rebuke.

While 240 enemies of free speech voted to rebuke Congressman Wilson for his timely shout, it's encouraging that 179 other House members saw no need for rebuke for this so-called breach of decorum and civility.

Having taken that brave stand, the 179 now will expect and encourage anyone disagreeing with them to shout out "You lie!" to disrupt their speeches in the House chamber.

Absolute freedom of speech to say anything to or about anyone at any time must also be promoted beyond the congressional chambers.

Talk radio commentators who railed at reprimanding the "You lie!" shout will of course welcome the opportunity for anyone to go to a local radio station and break in with on-the-air interruptions of their spiels with taunts of "liar."

Children should be encouraged by the patriotic example of Congressman Wilson to practice freedom of speech in the classroom. Yes, kids, shout "You lie!" at any teacher you don't like or don't respect. If it's OK to shout at the President of the United States in the House chamber during a nationally televised speech, any kid should be able to shout insults at a mere teacher in the quiet of some little classroom.

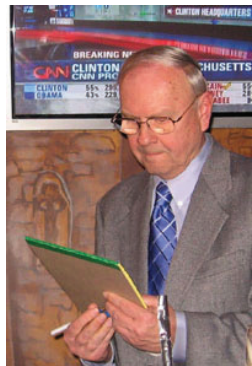
You didn't hear the President tell kids to shout at teachers in his talk to students on the opening day of school. No wonder his speech was criticized.

Also, let's shout down the creeps preaching against road rage. Roll down the window and yell at any driver going too fast or too slow or becoming annoying by being in the same lane.

Since other absolute freedoms also are under attack, exercise as well your Second Amendment rights when you hit the road to tell off other drivers.

We must shout down those who call for silly civility. Drown them out, shut them up, in the name of free speech. ❖

Colwell has been covering Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.





McDermott, Dominguez spar over pot arrest

HAMMOND - The Lake County sheriff is making public a private rebuke Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. hurled at him for arresting one of the mayor's allies (Dolan, Times of Northwest Indiana).

The mayor accused Sheriff Rogelio "Roy" Dominguez, his second-in-command and Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter of "playing politics" following the Sept. 10 arrest by county sheriff's police of David Woerpel, 5th District Democratic precinct captain, and a close associate of the mayor, along with three other Woerpel family members on charges they were growing marijuana plants in their backyard. Dominguez released a voice message he said McDermott Jr. left the following Saturday morning on the sheriff's cell phone. McDermott now is criticizing the sheriff for the disclosure. "I didn't think the sheriff was going to make this conversation public. That's the kind of guy he is," McDermott said. The sheriff said he did it, because "I have never been intimidated by political threats." The mayor's message to the sheriff stated: "As you probably know ... I'm sure you do know that Dave Woerpel was arrested, his wife was arrested, his two sons were arrested. They were swept up, because there was five tiny pot plants growing in their backyard. ... Nonetheless, they were swept up in a warrant. Tina was arrested in front of her employees in the (city) recycling center. You would think they were growing pounds and pounds of marijuana in the backyard, but it turns out they were growing five small, little plants, which leads me to believe that somebody is playing politics, and it's got to be either you



or (Lake County Police Chief) Marco (Kuyachich) or (Lake County Prosecutor) Bernie (Carter). So I'm calling all three of you, and I'm going to let you know that I'm definitely getting involved in the sheriff's race, and I'm pissed off. Roy, this is completely, completely uncalled for. Dave Woerpel is the captain of the 5th District, captain in the city of Hammond ... very, very powerful, very, very political, and you guys arrested him and he had nothing to do with it. Nothing. Roy, that's the dirtiest trick I've ever seen. Have a nice day."

Chrysler/Fiat expected to bid on Getrag plant

TIPTON - Informed and reliable sources tell Howey Politics Indiana that Fiat SpA/Chrysler Group is preparing a bid for the abandoned Getrage plant at Tipton.

Lake County will honor Dillinger era sheriff

CROWN POINT - Lake County officials have an answer for all the notoriety Lake County has received over Depression-era gangster John Dillinger and Universal's "Public Enemies" movie, starring Johnny Depp (Dolan, Times of Northwest Indiana). Lake County's Board of Commissioners voted to rededicate the newly renovated police office building in the name of Lillian Holley, Lake County's first and only female sheriff, who was in office at the time Dillinger escaped from the county jail in 1934. Sheriff Rogelio "Roy" Dominguez said a memorial also will honor all female law enforcement officers who have followed her, the only memorial in the state known to do so. Landscape paver bricks with the name of female retired and fallen police and corrections officers will surround a granite sculpture of a sheriff's star. The memorial will have a portrait of Holley, a 42-year-old mother of twin daughters when her husband was

killed in the line of duty. She held the position for two years and remained in Crown Point until her death in 1994 at age 103.

WSJ/NBC poll shows reform blame for GOP

NEW YORK - If a health care overhaul is not approved this year, a plurality of Americans said Republicans will be at fault, according to the latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll. More than one in three Americans, 37%, said congressional Republicans will be "most to blame" if the bill fails. That's almost four times the 10% of respondents who said President Barack Obama will be to blame, and nearly three times the 16% of respondents who said congressional Democrats will be to blame. Nearly a quarter, 23%, said all three will be to blame.

Hoosier Lottery profits plunge 17%

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana's luck in the Hoosier Lottery has hit a dry patch. The state's lottery proceeds fell by nearly \$40 million in the past fiscal year, the highest percentage drop in the nation (Schneider, Indianapolis Star). The state's profit from the sale of scratch-off tickets, Powerball and other lottery games fell from \$217.2 million in fiscal year 2008 -- a stellar year for lottery sales -- to \$178.9 million in the fiscal year that ended June 30, according to data from the Hoosier Lottery. That's the lowest since 2003, when the state's profits were \$175.6 million. The state's 17.5 percent drop had many causes, including the recession, a lack of big jackpots and possibly even changes in consumer habits.

Gov. Patrick set to name Kirk to Senate

BOSTON - Former Democratic National Committee chairman Paul G.



Kirk Jr. was the favored pick Thursday as Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick prepared to announce a temporary replacement for the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (Associated Press). Kennedy's sons, Edward Kennedy Jr. and U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., both lobbied for Kirk in separate phone calls to the governor, according to a family confidant and a Patrick aide. The governor scheduled a late-morning news conference at the Statehouse to declare his choice, and aides would not rule out the attendance of Vicki Kennedy, the senator's widow, as a sign of the family's approval.

Pence wants 72 hours to read the bill

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Mike Pence issued the following statement after Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR), Congressman John Culberson (R-TX) and Congressman Brian Baird (D-WA) began circulating a petition that would require the Democrat leadership in Congress to give Members of Congress and the American public 72 hours to review legislation before it is voted on in the House of Representatives: "I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort to bring some transparency back to the legislative process. Members of Congress should read every major piece of legislation before casting their vote. Congress and the American people deserve three days to read the bills. This discharge petition is a critical step in the right direction."

Lugar seeks energy payment transparency

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sens. Dick Lugar (R-IN), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Roger Wicker (R-MS), and Russ Feingold (D-WI) introduced legislation to reverse the "resource curse" by requiring companies to reveal payments made to U.S. and foreign governments for oil, gas

and minerals. Currently countries rich in natural resources and rampant with corruption can hide the financial benefits they gain from energy companies and use the revenue to further finance corruption rather than invest in their people (Howey Politics Indiana).

Souder lauds Nucor trade probe

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Mark Souder applauded the decision today by Nucor Fastener in St. Joe, Ind., to seek a formal investigation to determine if the Taiwanese and Chinese governments are providing subsidies to exporters of standard fasteners, such as structural bolts, nuts, and capscrews. Nucor filed antidumping and countervailing duty petitions with the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. International Trade Commission. "China and Taiwan should not be allowed to continue these cheating trade policies," Souder said. "Hoosier employees suffer when foreign governments make it impossible for American manufacturers to compete in a fair market place—we cannot have free trade if it isn't fair trade. I hope the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. International Trade Commission will act swiftly to see this issue resolved," Souder added (Howey Politics Indiana).

Study committee eyes Illiana Expressway

INDIANAPOLIS - The proposed Illiana Expressway between Interstate 57 in Illinois and Interstate 65 in Indiana took its first baby steps Wednesday as area state legislators heard the high points of a feasibility study authorized by the Indiana General Assembly (Carden, Times of Northwest Indiana). State Sen. Sue Landske, R-Cedar Lake, is chairwoman of the Legislative Illiana Expressway Study Committee, which will decide whether to recommend the 25- to 30-mile highway project for Gov. Mitch Daniels to consider further. The eight-member committee listened to

a presentation by Barb Sloan of Cambridge Systematics Inc. about the 300-page study that was begun nearly two years ago. The Indiana Department of Transportation selected the consultant with offices in Chicago to conduct the study. The final revised report has now been published on the INDOT Web site. Committee members will review the document, Landske said, and will hold another meeting about the study before year's end. According to Sloan, the study shows the Illiana Expressway is needed for many reasons, including reducing congestion on the Borman Expressway. Currently, there are 200,000 vehicles a day on the Borman, 50 percent of which are heavy trucks.

Racing official resigns over phone sex calls

INDIANAPOLIS - Gary Wilfert, senior state steward of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission, resigned Wednesday after The Indianapolis Star inquired about what appeared to be calls to a phone sex service made from his state-issued phone (Indianapolis Star). Joe Gorajec, executive director of the IHRC, initiated his own investigation after the newspaper's inquiry. He declined to discuss his investigation or any discipline there might have been had Wilfert not resigned. "I'm not going to get into any of the details," Gorajec said. Stewards are the referees of horse racing, enforcing rules and regulations at the track. Acting on an anonymous tip, The Star made a public records request for Wilfert's state phone records. The records appeared to show five calls to a phone sex service earlier this year. State policy on the use of phones prohibits employees from accessing "materials that are considered pornographic, obscene, sexually explicit ..."