



Bayh bugs out, indicts Congress

Democratic successor to emerge from 'smoke-filled room'?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Ironically, it was President's Day that Evan Bayh decided to bow out of elective politics, at least for now.

With his presidential ambitions only a memory, with a coin flip by Barack Obama denying him the heart beat away and a West Wing office, with the polarization of Congress no longer making him a centrist deal broker, and with an aversion to contested primaries, Sen. Evan Bayh stunned the Hoosier political world, rocked Washington and announced he would not seek reelection. It came two weeks after a Senate Democrat caucus with President Obama found Bayh asking, "Why should people trust the Democratic Party?"

The decision came hours before the county deadlines for filing certified signatures, guaranteeing that the



U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh explains why he won't seek reelection on Monday as wife Susan looks on. (HPI Photo by Steve Dickerson)

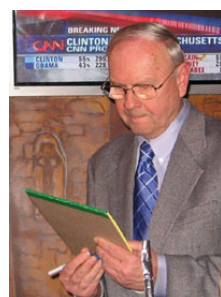
party nominee will come from the Democratic Central Committee, a bastion of Bayh loyalists who cringed during the

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Bayh's inexcusable timing

By **JACK COLWELL**

SOUTH BEND - The stunning news that Sen. Evan Bayh will not run for reelection, coming as the filing deadline looms, enhances Republican chances and leaves Democrats trying to figure out how to get a candidate on the ballot for what now will be a national battleground race.



Bayh's last-minute bailout is as shocking, in terms of Indiana politics, as was, in terms of national politics, the startling announcement by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 that he would neither seek nor accept



'I do not love Congress.'

- U.S. SEN. EVAN BAYH



HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA

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

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\$550 annually HPI Weekly &
HPI Daily Wire
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nomination for reelection.

Why did Bayh do this, especially so late, with his own petitions candidacy with ample signatures and with a well-financed organization ready to go?

He said, and it is no doubt true, that a main reason was the partisan poison in Congress, where Bayh was a centrist, facing criticism from left and right and unable to bring constructive compromise.

He cited chagrin over the way seven senators who were co-sponsors of a bipartisan commission to deal with the national debt and deficits switched for political reasons to vote "no" and kill it.

If he wanted to strike back at Republicans who just said "no," his decision not to run, enhancing Republican prospects to win the Senate seat he now holds, seems a strange way to do so. Thus, it appears that Bayh was just sick of striking back or striking at all in the partisan wars.



He also cited collapse of a bipartisan jobs bill, blamed in Washington on the Senate Democratic leader saying "no." The last straw?

Bayh was frustrated with Congress, where now there are so few centrists in either party who will risk the wrath of their party's partisans and to compromise rather than annihilation of the other side.

"I love working for the people of Indiana," Bayh said. "I love helping our citizens make the most of their lives, but I do not love Congress."

Nor does he much value it. Not when a Senate seat that he was favored to win wasn't something he cared to seek again.

"My decision is not motivated by political concern," Bayh said.

Clearly, it wasn't.

In terms of Democratic politics, his decision, or at least the timing of it, was inexcusable, with a noon deadline today to get any new candidate's petitions in for certification in counties.

Not only does his decision make it more likely that Republicans will gain another seat in the Senate, but he also abandons his role as a ticket leader, helping Democratic candidates such as Congressman Joe Donnelly, another centrist, in potentially tough races.

Nor would it seem that he was motivated by concern over losing.

Bayh was shown in a recent poll to have a high favorable rating _ 61 percent favorable, 33 percent unfavorable _ and with a 20 percentage point lead over former Sen. Dan Coats, the likely but still far from certain Republican nominee for the Senate. Bayh also had a 16 point lead over another potential Republican opponent, former Congressman John Hostettler.

Add in more than \$13 million in campaign coffers, long popularity with Indiana voters and the way Coats has been skewered over past lobbying in Washington and a reasonable conclusion was that Bayh was a strong favorite for re-election.

Now, Coats, provided he can survive in his own party primary, is likely to emerge as the favorite for the Senate seat, the one he once held.

President Obama's selection of a running mate, according to insider accounts, was down to either Joe Biden or Bayh.

So, disappointment over that and the end of speculation about some day being president could have played a part in Bayh's decision. He contemplated much earlier that he might not run again for the Senate, might not want to continue in a shrinking middle ground amid partisan hostilities. But Bayh finally was ready to run, or at least everybody thought so, until on Monday he walked away.





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unseemly gubernatorial primary two years ago, ending up with an anti-establishment nominee in Jill Long Thompson. And in the ultimate chess move, Bayh probably kept U.S. Rep. Mike Pence out of the race, though the emergence of U.S. Sen. Dan Coats was an unforeseen counter by the GOP, which may have been suspicious of Bayh's reelection campaign due to earlier retirement talk.

"This is a bad, bad blow for Democrats," said ABC News' George Stephanopolous. "They will almost certainly lose a seat." NBC's Chuck Todd said Bayh's decision left Senate colleagues fuming. "They are very upset with him," Todd said. "They were saying, 'When the tough got going, he went away.'"

The New York Times Adam Nagourney described the move as one that "staggered Democrats" and "sending a wave of distress over his fellow Democrats." The Times reported that Bayh timed his decision so that Obama and Democratic leaders could not talk him out of the move.

Bayh's decision came wrapped in the indignation of a "dysfunctional" Congress, where its bigger, polarized wings on the right and left made it a fitful experience for a centrist like Bayh, who is following other moderates like Democrats Byron Dorgan and Republicans like George Voinovich and Judd Gregg into retirement. With 11 senators announcing they are retiring, it is the most since 1996. His move will make this the first Indiana Senate race since 1992 without a "Lugar" or "Bayh" on the ticket, something that has occurred in 11 of the past 15 Senate races here.

"I have often been a lonely voice for balancing the budget and restraining spending, and I work with Democrats, Republicans, Independent's alike to do the nation's business in a way that is civil and constructive," Bayh said.

Bayh pinned his decision on two deals that fell to what he called "ideological politics."

"Two weeks ago, the Senate voted down a bipartisan commission to deal with one of the greatest threats facing our nation: our exploding deficits and debt," Bayh explained as his family flanked him by the podium with a U.S. Senate logo on the front. "The measure would have passed, but seven members who had endorsed the idea instead voted "no" for short-term political reasons," Bayh said. "Just last week, a major piece of legislation to create

jobs - the public's top priority - fell apart amid complaints from both the left and right. All of this and much more has led me to believe that there are better ways to serve my fellow citizens, my beloved state, and our nation than continued service in Congress."

Bayh explained further, "After all these years, my passion for service to my fellow citizens is undiminished, but my desire to do so by serving in Congress has waned. To put it in words most Hoosiers can understand: I love working for the people of Indiana, I love helping our citizens make the most of their lives, but I do not love Congress. I will not, therefore, be a candidate for election to the Senate this November. My decision should not be interpreted for more than it is, a very difficult, deeply personal one."



Bayh allies like former chief of staffs Bill Moreau Jr., IU Athletic Director Fred Glass and former Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson - told HPI that Bayh had weighed retirement for months. "This has been going on for quite some time," Moreau said. "Certainly it would be accurate to characterize it as months."

Was Moreau surprised? "Yes I was," he said. "I was honestly surprised, not shocked. I certainly respect it. He's given 22 years of distinguished service to the people of Indiana. He wants to do other things. I think he's earned the right to."

Former Bayh chief of staff Tom Sugar told HPI that Bayh was warned when he entered the Senate in 1999 that it would be "a frustrating place for a former governor." Bayh explained, "I am an executive at heart. I value my independence. I am not motivated by strident partisanship or ideology. These traits may be useful in many walks of life, but they are not highly valued in Congress."

Glass said the senator's decision will exact a price. "Sadly, he's just the next example of moderate voices of both parties out of the United States congress. You and I would have a great conversation as political scientists about the gerrymandered districts that become all Republican and all Democrat and then nurture these fringe voices of our respective parties who come into Congress and then we wonder why they can't get along and do anything when moderates are pushed out. They are the people who build the bridges. It's disheartening from a public policy perspective."

Staffers and informed and reliable sources tell HPI that Bayh told them on Friday he would not run. Bayh himself told the press scrum after his announcement, "It



wasn't until the last 48 hours. Sometime Friday. I can't give you an epiphany moment. I was hoping that things would get better and it's not just been happening, unfortunately. Then I looked at the next six years and I thought maybe I can help create jobs in the private sector. Maybe I can work at a university helping to educate young people. Maybe I can help lead a foundation. Or try to help cure cancer. Congress just doesn't seem to be doing that right now."

The Washington Post reported last fall that Bayh had considered retiring. But no one fathomed that Bayh would do what his prospective 1998 opponent - Coats who entered the race on Feb. 2 - would quit before the race was enjoined.

Bayh tried to slam the door on a potential 2012 gubernatorial run. "That is absolutely not on my mind today," he said.

But former House Speaker John Gregg told HPI that while the Bayh legions were shocked by his decision, they don't believe he's out of politics. "The general consensus among the 40 or so people I've talked to is they think he's running for governor in '12," Gregg said. "I don't by any means think his political career is over. He could run for governor in '12 and then in 2016 go for the White House from the Statehouse. That's a better route."

Stephanopolous even suggested Bayh might have other opportunities at the White House, telling him recently that the time might be right for a third party led by a "sane Ross Perot." Stephanopolous asked Bayh if he would be interested and the senator quipped, "A few billion dollars separates me from Ross Perot."

On both ABC's Good Morning America and MSNBC's Morning Joe, Bayh denied any interest in a presidential run. "There is no truth to that whatsoever," Bayh said. "I do support President Obama and I'm confident he'll be reelected."

Return of smoked fill room

Bayh rescued the Indiana Democratic Party from the desert six years after he managed his father's losing 1980 race, winning the secretary of state's race in 1986 and reclaiming the gubernatorial seat two years later. Since then, he has been the commanding presence of the Indiana Democratic Party. When he appeared on the ballot, Democrats in the Indiana House picked up seats. "Evan Bayh is hugely responsible for leading Indiana Democrats out of the wilderness where we wandered for a quarter century before 1988 and he helped build the modern Indiana Democratic Party," said HPI columnist Shaw Friedman, a former LaPorte County Democratic chairman. "We're able to be competitive and win elections because of his mes-

sage that Hoosier Democrats could govern frugally, deliver services and be accountable. It will be quite a loss but we always knew there would come a day. We've got a pretty deep bench of some talented elected officials like our own Congressman Joe Donnelly who I happen to think would make an outstanding member of the US Senate. I guess we'll have to see what develops."

Bayh's iron grip on the Democratic Party began to erode in 2008, a little over a year after he ended a short presidential campaign. He backed Hillary Clinton in the Indiana presidential primary, then stewed when Gary Mayor



Rudy Clay held up the Lake County results that would have given Clinton a critical primary victory during the 11 p.m. East coast newscasts. Clinton defeated Obama by less than 1 percent. That same night, Thompson defeated the party-backed candidate, Jim Schellinger in the governor's race.

There was grumblings in Democrat circles this year over Bayh's self-described "agnostic" view of health care reforms. There were isolated reports of Bayh's ballot signature sheets going unfilled at Jefferson-Jackson Day dinners last fall. But recent polling showed the incumbent with 20 percent leads over Republicans Coats and John Hostettler in head-to-head matchups.

Bayh was asked that in the wake of his objections to dysfunctional politics, wouldn't his successor be picked in a "smoked filled room?"

"I don't think so," Bayh responded. "It will be a strong candidate who can carry our message very ably and will start off with some significant advantages in the campaign. I do believe we will have a strong nominee who will have an excellent chance of winning."

Asked a few minutes later why he waited until the filing deadline was at hand, Bayh said, "Frankly, I've been busy doing my day job on the important things I've been handling and it wasn't until the deadline loomed that I really started making my decision. It was a very difficult, personal decision."

Who's next?

Immediate speculation centered on the Blue Dog



Congressional Democrats - U.S. Reps. Baron Hill, Brad Ellsworth and Joe Donnelly, along with former Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and former secretary of state Joe Hogsett.

Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott said he would review his options, telling the Times of Northwest Indiana, "I can't rule anything out. I don't know if this has been predetermined, but if it's not -- if it's a wide-open race -- you are going to have to have someone to win this thing. It is important for Democrats nationwide that we win this thing." Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson said she would take a look at the race.

Peterson and Donnelly quickly ruled out runs. "I love what I'm doing and will be doing what I'm doing for a long time to come," Peterson said of his senior VP post at Eli Lilly. Donnelly said in a statement, "The people of north central Indiana sent me to Congress to represent them and I will continue to put their interests first. A week ago today, I filed papers to once again run to represent the people of Indiana's Second Congressional District. When the time is right, I'll be out campaigning hard to keep the job I love."

Hogsett refused to comment specifically on a successor Monday. But multiple sources tell HPI that Hogsett is in the running to become the Southern U.S. District Attorney.

That leaves Hill and Ellsworth as the most probable nominees. Hill was on a military trip to Afghanistan and will be out of pocket for the week. The timing of Bayh's announcement couldn't be worse for him. From a political standpoint, he was blindsided by this stunning development. Hill, who lost to Sen. Coats in 1990, is also expected to be in a tough reelection battle, possibly with former congressman Mike Sodrel, who faces Republican Todd Young in the GOP primary.

Ellsworth may be in the best position to seek the Senate seat. His 8th CD may be easier to defend than Hill's. He has \$580,000 cash on hand. There is a deep bench of possible 8th CD contenders that would include Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel (who will not seek the Senate seat) and State Rep. Trent Van Haften.

Ellsworth said in a statement, "I heard about the news during my annual Open Door Listening Tour this morning, and I appreciate the support of those Hoosiers who have already encouraged me to run for Senator Bayh's seat. The next step will be taking a few days to talk to my wife and to folks in Indiana about where I can best serve our state. In the meanwhile, I will continue to travel throughout the 8th District this week listening to Hoosiers about the challenges they face and their ideas for getting our economy back on track."

Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker told HPI that it remains to be seen what becomes of Sen. Bayh's \$13 million war chest. A Senate candidate can receive only

\$5,000 for the primary and \$5,000 for the general from a candidate committee. The Indiana Democratic Party is limited to a \$10,000 direct contribution to a candidate. However, the party can place \$900,000 in coordinated spending on a campaign. The national Democratic Party can spend as much as it wants on a candidate, but it has to be through an independent, uncoordinated expenditure.

As for Republicans, Pence reaffirmed his decision to seek reelection. "Congressman Pence believes that Republicans will retake the House in 2010 and he counts it a privilege to be a part of the House Republican leadership during this historic election," said Matt Lloyd, a spokesman for Pence. "Mr. Pence has filed for reelection to the 6th



Congressional District of Indiana and will continue serve his constituents and help lead the effort to retake the House of Representatives."

Sources tell HPI that the entire Republican field - Coats, Don Bates Jr., Richard Behney, former congressman John Hostettler, and State Sen. Marlin Stutzman - all will qualify for the ballot. Only Behney was lacking signatures in the 7th CD on Monday and he was expected to have those certified by today's deadline.

Epilogue

As of Monday evening, the Indiana political establishment was on its ear. It has already been a shocking cycle, marked by unexpected retirements of Bayh and U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, Pence's decision to remain in the U.S. House, and potential presidential or vice presidential candidacies of Pence and Gov. Mitch Daniels.

The next two weeks will be riveting, beginning with today's county deadlines to file for statewide offices; Friday's noon deadline for Congressional and legislative seats. Then comes the supposedly early end to the Indiana General Assembly, the emerging confederacy of the Hoosier Tea Party tribes, April 15 tax day when the tribes will emerge, and finally the May primary when U.S. Rep. Dan Burton will learn how potent the anti-incumbency strain is.

Fasten your safety belts. Or, as Chairman Parker put it, "I'll need a stiff drink tonight."❖



Bayh Retirement reaction

President Obama: "For more than two decades, Evan Bayh has devoted his career and his life to serving his fellow Hoosiers. During that time, he has fought tirelessly for Indiana's working families, reaching across the aisle on issues ranging from job creation and economic growth to fiscal responsibility and national security. I look forward to continuing to work with him on these critical challenges throughout the rest of the year. Michelle and I thank Senator Bayh for his leadership and service and wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors."

Sen. Dick Lugar: "It has been a personal privilege to serve Indiana with a distinguished father and son, Birch and Evan Bayh. The last 33 years of political life in our country have often been times of excessive partisanship. I am grateful that Birch and Evan Bayh were always ready to work with me in making certain that Hoosier wisdom and commonsense had strong united voices in every debate."

U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth: "Evan Bayh has served the people of Indiana with integrity and Hoosier common sense for over two decades," said Rep. Brad Ellsworth, D-Evansville. "His time in the U.S. Senate will be marked by his moderate approach and willingness to reach across the aisle to tackle our nation's most pressing problems. I appreciate his service to our people and state. He will be missed."

Former Sen. Dan Coats: "Senator Bayh has served the state as governor and senator for two decades; I respect his commitment to public service. I will continue to run just as hard and take nothing for granted. I am running so the views and interests of Hoosiers are represented in Washington, so Hoosiers can get back to work in good jobs, and so Americans are safe and secure from threats to our national security. As a nation, we are currently headed badly off course; the people of Indiana want to change that and want to be heard in Washington. I will continue to make the case throughout the state that I am in the strongest position to get there and fight for all Hoosiers and all Americans."

Republican Senate candidate Don Bates Jr.: "Eleven months ago I started telling people that Barack Obama's agenda would not be good for America, and that because of Senator Bayh's inability to stop President Obama's agenda, Senator Bayh must be replaced. At first, very few people believed me. It now appears that even Senator Bayh believes me. Our mission is the same as it was from the beginning of this Campaign. President Obama's liberal agenda for America must be stopped, and together, Hoosiers, not national parties or special lobbying interests, can lead the charge to not only stop his agenda, but to restore fiscal discipline in America, and lead us once again to Reagan's Shining City on a Hill."

Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker: "Today, I join Hoosiers from all around the state in expressing my gratitude to Senator Bayh for his years of hard work on behalf of the people of Indiana. It would be impossible to overstate the incredible impact that Senator Evan Bayh has had on this state during his career as a public servant. As Governor, Evan Bayh cut taxes, created jobs, and earned his title as the 'Education Governor.' As Senator, he has fought tirelessly for Hoosier jobs, promoted children's health, and battled wasteful spending no matter what political party was in control. Evan Bayh's dedication to fiscal responsibility and seeking bipartisan solutions has served Indiana well for over two decades. As this chapter of service to Hoosiers ends and a new one opens for Senator Bayh, I sincerely hope this legacy serves as a model for elected representatives across this state."

Indiana Republican Chairman J. Murray Clark: "Evan Bayh has served the state of Indiana with distinction for the past 20 years. While at times we were on different sides of the issues, I have always appreciated his commitment to Indiana. First of all, we thank him for his service and wish him well in the future. That said, we have always viewed this Senate race as one that would be competitive. Today's announcement cements that view and we really like our chances in the general election."

Gov. Mitch Daniels: "Evan Bayh has served Indiana faithfully and with great integrity in three decades and three important capacities. At a time when people of moderation with minds open to the views of others are increasingly rare in Washington, the nation will miss him as much as our state does."

Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel: "Evan Bayh has spent most of his professional career serving the people of Indiana. He has done so with dignity and integrity, and his decisions were always guided by his commitment to fiscal responsibility and common sense Hoosier values. His strong presence will be missed in the U.S. Senate and his leadership will be missed by people in every community throughout our state. I am honored that my name has been mentioned as a possible candidate for the U.S. Senate. However, I am not interested in pursuing this opportunity. With two years left in my second term as Mayor of the City of Evansville, I am committed to leading my community through these challenging times. Just in the past year, we have successfully lured millions of dollars in new investment and hundreds of new jobs to our city, we have started construction on a new arena that will transform our downtown and create a better future for all, and, through all this, we are managing better and smarter by doing more with less as we continue to provide the city services people come to expect. I am very optimistic about our community and want to continue to lead it into the future." ❖



Bayh's decision was ultimately about control

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Ultimately, Evan Bayh's decision was about control.

For years, I've heard Democratic partisans complain about the men who call the shots in the Indiana Democratic Party. It is based on the concepts of clans - where bloodlines seem to mean more than the content of one's character. Or who you know.

We saw it at the funeral of U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, when a Democratic colleague from Ohio stood up in the church and relayed the death bed wish: "Send my seed!"

Every Democrat in the sanctuary who had come up through the ranks, who had pounded doors for the party, who had manned phone banks for the party, led precincts for the party, who had held stepping stone positions in the party, and who aspired to just perhaps ascend to Congress - like then-State Rep. David Orentlicher

- knew what it meant. It meant U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, a nice enough guy who most of us knew as the congresswoman's driver, was going to move up. Until that moment, few looked at Andre and said, "There's a future congressman." The 7th Congressional District seat became a family heirloom.

We've seen other clans in the Democratic Party - the O'Bannons, the Maherns, the Pastricks - where the offspring get a boost via bloodlines.

Certainly Evan Bayh had the talent to play on the big stage of Hoosier politics, but he leap-frogged over many others because he was, as John Fogarty might say, the "senator's son, the fortunate one."

It was with considerable sympathy that I listened to Bayh's message Monday afternoon about a "dysfunctional" Congress, where most are "motivated by strident partisanship or

ideology."

With the country on the brink of a depression, an auto sector collapse and bulging bubbles in commercial real estate in subprime mortgages, many of us thought Republicans and Democrats might actually work together in 2009 for the good of the nation. Unfortunately, it didn't happen. We ended the year more polarized than ever. The health reforms that were debated all year long are now on life support, and some of the very people crying "Socialism!" got a rude awakening from Anthem with now-tabled-for-the-moment rate increases, some nearing 40%.

Little was solved, resulting in a recent wave of polls that show 75 percent of the people are mad as hell. Many talk about lashing out at any incumbent, even someone as wholesome as Evan Bayh.

When the senator's son stands in Indianapolis and declares that "my desire to serve in Congress has waned" and later saying, "I do not love Congress," that stands as a riveting, powerful indictment.

But after talking with a number of Bayh loyalists, the truth begins to emerge. He had been pondering retirement, as confidant Bill Moreau told me, for "many months."

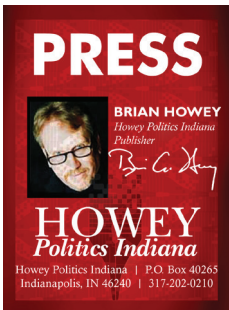
And then he cynically chose the day before the signature deadline - with nary a Democrat even close to qualifying - to drop this bombshell. And therein lies the control.

The move kept leading Republicans like Rep. Mike Pence and Secretary of State Todd Rokita from entering the GOP field.

Bayh has packed the Indiana Democratic Central Committee and they will choose the successor. It will not be sons Beau or Nick for they are teenagers. But don't believe for a minute that Bayh won't annoy someone to follow in his shoes.

Many Democrats I know will be outraged by this once it sinks in. Bayh essentially took this decision out of the hands of the rank and file - the people - and placed it in the hands of a couple dozen party stewards. Thus, Indiana Democrats get to avoid a messy primary where candidacies are launched and ideas are proclaimed and debated, and a nominee emerges to build new coalitions and reinvigorate the party.

We used to call that "democracy." ❖





Sticking it to the Dems without half-measures

By JOHN KRULL

FRANKLIN - When Evan Bayh decides to stick it to his own political party, he does not do it in half-measures.

The news Monday that Bayh would not seek a third term gashed a deep wound in both the state and national Democratic parties. It also caught everyone outside Bayh's inner circle – including state and national party leaders – by surprise.



Yet, in some ways, it was predictable.

A lifetime ago, in 1987, when Evan Bayh was Indiana secretary of state and just past 30, I was even younger and a columnist with The Indianapolis News. I traveled with him as he began his campaign to become the youngest governor in the country.

It is hard now to realize the pressure Bayh was under then.

His party was hungry for a hero.

Indiana had not elected a Democratic governor in 20 years. With the exception of brief interludes, his party hadn't controlled the Indiana General Assembly in about as long. In Indianapolis and Marion County, the local Democratic Party almost had to hold telethons to find candidates to make sacrificial runs for mayor.

Enter Evan Bayh.

The son of the late and revered Marvella and the three-term U.S. senator, Birch, blessed with the looks of a male model and steeled by a lifetime of discipline in the political arts, he seemed to embody possibility.

One Democrat told me, "He's the Dream Candidate. He's got his mother's brains and his dad's personal touch."

We traveled in Southern Indiana, stopping at one small picnic gathering of hungry Democrats after another. At one stop, a young woman clasped her hands together and did a little jump.

"I can't believe I'm seeing him before he becomes president," she said.

Even then, though, the tensions that came to define Bayh's career were there.

The folks Bayh talked to on that trip told me that they saw him as the leader who could transform the state's economic and educational systems – the one who could drag the state from the old to the new.

But Bayh did not speak in terms of transformational leadership. He spoke in terms of management – of

doing more with less and making state government more efficient.

The people who listened to him wanted a new vehicle for their dreams. He wanted to give the old one a tune-up.

It didn't matter.

The crowds wanted to believe in him. And Bayh seemed to believe that, as long as he was careful, they would go where he took them.

He won that election and every election he has had since – often by landslides.

In spite of his popularity, though, Evan Bayh has been a polarizing figure – distrusted by the left and often despised by the right.

Both ends of the political spectrum criticize him for what they see as a lack of conviction and a sense of calculation born of overwhelming personal ambition. They see him as someone who ducks the tough issues and refuses to take any difficult stands.

The criticism has merit, but doesn't tell the whole story. Evan Bayh always has been more complicated than people thought or he let on.

His aversion to difficult stands goes beyond calculation. Anyone who has spent time around him senses Bayh's discomfort with stridency. And stridency often accompanies strong conviction or deeply held belief.

Bayh's political faith, as he said in his withdrawal speech Monday, was in the ability of reasonable people to work things out and find a suitable compromise.

When the question is one of deep, unshakable conviction on both sides of the divide, Evan Bayh did not and does not know how to cope. That is why he has seemed adrift in the health care reform debate.

Regardless of what he says, Bayh knows this – knows that his usefulness in an age that will be marked by victories for one side or the other rather than compromises is limited, if not non-existent.

He is too smart to have just discovered the bitter partisanship that has dominated American politics for 40 years and, among other things, drove his father out of office.

It is somehow appropriate that his own departure from public life is clouded by unanswered questions.

The party that he wanted to manage didn't get all it wanted from Evan Bayh. And he did not get all from the party that he wanted.

That's just the nature of compromises. ❖

John Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism.



Bayh's exit leaves Dems angry, scrambling

By CHRIS SAUTTER

WASHINGTON - Hoosier Democrats greeted Evan Bayh as a savior in 1986 when he embarked on a political career that would take him to the Governor's mansion, the U.S. Senate, and narrowly close to the Vice Presidency. The Indiana Democratic Party in the early 1980's was at low ebb. As recently as the mid-1970's, Democrats held both U.S. Senate and eight congressional seats. Reagan's



Chris Sautter
Column

first landslide and redistricting in Indiana wiped out Democratic gains achieved in the wake of the Water-gate scandal. Though they recaptured the 8th congressional district in 1982, Indiana Democrats were struggling to compete during the early 1980's.

Bayh almost single handedly revived the Indiana Democratic Party. His victory at age 30 for Secretary of State over Rob Bowen, son of the

popular Republican governor, demonstrated the power of the Bayh brand. When he won the governor's race two years later over the highly respected Lt. Governor John Mutz, it was proof that Democrats in Indiana were back. Indeed, by the late 1980's, Democrats held eight of 10 congressional seats. And Bayh's election began a continuous run of 16 years of Democrat governors, as well as victories for Secretary of State and Attorney General.

But for many rank-and-file Democrats, the early days of Bayh's career were the high point. The Senator's stunning announcement Monday that he would not seek re-election on the eve of the filing deadline, they say, simply underscores that Bayh's focus has always been his own political career.

Some Democrats are angry that Bayh's sudden exit has left Democrats hanging with a critical Senate seat in serious jeopardy. Others complain that Bayh never championed critical issues and that when his dream to become president derailed, he chose to bailout rather than to stay and fight for important ideals and better politics.

Bayh in his retirement announcement Monday stated the obvious. Washington is dysfunctional. Partisan politics in Congress has made passage of essential legislation next to impossible. Important policy considerations have taken a back seat to the world of the permanent campaign. They are no more giants on Capitol Hill.

The Senate is certainly a much different place than it was when his father served in the 1960's and 1970's. In Birch Bayh's time, the Senate was a much more collegial

institution. Senators of opposite parties frequently reached across party lines to pass legislation, and even socialized. It was a time of great Senators addressing great issues. But these Senators were also more likely to cast votes on principle at the risk of jeopardizing their re-election chances than today. Birch Bayh, author of Title IX and ardent supporter of much controversial legislation, is a case-in-point.

Some argue that Evan Bayh contributed equally to the current dismal state of American politics. Bayh's safe style does not seem to have advanced the cause of progress he laments is lacking in national politics. Just as Birch Bayh's political legacy is marked by great achievements, Evan Bayh's time on the stage points to few serious accomplishments.

Meanwhile, Hoosier Democrats are scrambling. There is no heir apparent and certainly no one of Bayh's stature and ability.

A couple of potential candidates, including Joe Kernan and Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel, immediately took themselves out of consideration. That leaves Congressmen Brad Ellsworth, Baron Hill, and Congressman Joe Donnelly as top tier candidates. Donnelly has already filed for re-election, but some close to him claim he has left the door open.

Others mentioned include State Senator Vi Simpson, who ran briefly for governor in 2004, and former Secretary of State Joe Hogsett. Both are good candidates, but there are doubts about their ability to raise the necessary campaign cash. Some Democrats have been casting about for a candidate from business who could run as an outsider in a year which is shaping up to be distinctly anti-Washington and anti-establishment. But the last candidate with such a profile, Jim Schellinger who ran for governor in 2008, was a poor candidate.

Among the names mentioned, 9th District Congressman Baron Hill would by far be the best candidate to grab the torch. A prodigious fundraiser, Hill has been toughened by several very difficult campaigns. He is an aggressive campaigner and good on the stump. He faces another challenging re-election campaign for Congress, so a statewide race may make more sense to him. But Hill is in Afghanistan, and there is no word of his level of interest.

8th District Congressman Brad Ellsworth is also an attractive candidate. But unlike Hill, Ellsworth has never been seriously tested. It is unclear whether he can raise the funds or stand up to the rigors of a tough statewide campaign. Donnelly would also make a good candidate, although he struggled in his first run for Congress. Bayh's Indiana Democratic Party controls the process. It is said Chairman Dan Parker preferred Ellsworth over Hill for governor in 2012. What that means for this process is anyone's guess.



Indiana Republicans have their own problems. Dan Coats' rollout could not have been rockier. Rank-and-file Republicans have grumbled publicly that Washington is forcing them to nominate a lobbyist who abandoned the state years ago. An anti-Democratic trend and Indiana's Republican leanings may save Coats. But he is clearly damaged by the revelations of the past week, with more undoubtedly on the way.

Whatever the outcome, Bayh's dramatic exit from politics has shaken the state's politics like nothing since the death of Governor Frank O'Bannon. The vacuum left by his departure will likely take years to fill. ❖

Chris Sautter is Washington, DC-based political consultant. He was Barack Obama's first media consultant and produced Obama's first campaign ads.

Democrats scramble to replace retiring Bayh

By CHRIS CILLIZZA

WASHINGTON - 1. National Democrats -- stunned by Sen. Evan Bayh's (D) announcement Monday that he would not seek reelection -- have begun to mull their options to replace the popular two-term incumbent. With several thousand signatures due today, it's almost certain that no Democrat will qualify, meaning that the party's state central committee will select the candidate. (Talk that a little known Democrat was within range of securing enough signatures to make the ballot today proved premature.) While the state central committee has until the end of June to pick a candidate, national Democrats will push to have the decision made sooner rather than later. There appear to be five serious candidates in the mix: 1) Brad Ellsworth: Ellsworth beat then-Rep. John Hostettler (R) in 2006 to claim the Republican-tilting 8th district. Ellsworth is a handsome and telegenic presence, and a favorite of White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, who recruited him into the race during his tenure as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. But, Ellsworth has run in only one real race and a statewide bid would be a major step up. 2) Baron Hill: Hill, who has held the southern Indiana 9th

district from 1998 to 2004 and then again from 2006 to the present, is a former basketball star who has shown an ability to run and win in a swing seat. Hill's problem? He voted for the health care and cap and trade bills, which could prove very unpopular in this swing state. 3) Jim Schellinger: Schellinger, an Indianapolis-based architect, ran for governor in 2008 but lost narrowly to former Rep. Jill Long Thompson in the primary. In a year favoring outsiders, Schellinger's profile as a successful businessman who has never held elected office could be appealing. 4) Joe Donnelly: Donnelly beat then-Rep. Chris Chocola (R) in 2006 to claim this South-Bend area seat. While Donnelly has already filed for reelection to his 2nd district seat, sources familiar with the process insist he left the door ajar to a possible Senate bid. 5) Vi Simpson: A longtime state legislator, Simpson is the best known woman in the mix for Bayh's seat. Simpson has served in the state Senate since 1984 and has deep experience on budgetary issues, a potential argument in her favor given the current economic climate in the state and nationally.

2. The national implications of Bayh's retirement are considerable. Political handicapper Charlie Cook now carries 10 Democratic-held seats in his most competitive categories, meaning that if Republicans run the table and don't lose any of their own vulnerable seats they could take back the Senate. With so little room for error, however, it's still a long shot for Republicans to take over the upper chamber. To expand their chances, the GOP must continue to expand the playing field, with Senate races in Wisconsin and Washington State the most likely possibilities. In Wisconsin, former governor Tommy Thompson (R) has yet to remove himself from consideration but no serious Republicans expect him to challenge Sen. Russ Feingold (D). In Washington, there is some talk that former state senator Dino Rossi (R) could enter the race against Sen. Patty Murray (D) just before the state's June 11 primary. The other possible impact of Bayh's retirement is that it could convince a colleague or two to follow him out of the Senate. The most likely potential retiree is Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D) who trails several little known Republican candidates in Arkansas. Senate Majority Harry Reid (Nev.) is in a similarly precarious position in his reelection bid but has insisted he is running again. Rumors that Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) was considering retirement, which spread like wildfire on blogs on Monday, are entirely untrue, according to one senior Democratic aide. ❖



Chris Cillizza of the Washington Post at the 2007 HPI Forum. (HPI Photo)



Bayh changes course at the right time

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - In politics and government, there are secrets – and then there are closely held secrets.

What Evan Bayh announced Monday was one of the most closely guarded ones from many perspectives. It happened so unexpectedly that the shock waves are still settling in and will for some time.



In the wake of his announcement that he's leaving the Senate at the end of the year, there are many thoughts that come to mind. The overriding one is this: What's next for him? The answer is probably A. He's running for governor in 2012 B. He wants to run for president eventually or C. He'll do both.

This answer lies in the cryptic comment Bayh made in his announcement about being an "executive" rather than a legislator at heart.

Keep in mind that Indiana Democrats have few bullets in their gun to fire at the governor's race, and they need someone to restore credibility and boost fund-raising. Keep in mind that Bayh is the one candidate who can pull that off for the party.

Bayh's in his mid-50s, and he's young enough to win two more terms as governor and run for president in 2016, assuming the incumbent wins a second term in 2012.

As for the political fallout of Bayh's decision, the political calculus is interesting.

Consider Rep. Mike Pence, who showed some political cowardice by first announcing he was exploring a run against Bayh and then announcing he didn't want to try it. Had he been passionate about running for an office instead of being afraid of the person in it, he might be the favorite to win it. As it stands, he's out of the running.

As for the Democrats, the question becomes "Who does the State Central Committee choose for Bayh's replacement on the ballot?" If the decision is Bayh's to make courtesy of state chair Dan Parker, he could choose college chum and former Secretary of State Joe Hogsett. But keep in mind that Hogsett has lost his last two statewide races and has lost to one of the declared Republicans for the seat, Dan Coats. As for Rep. Baron Hill, who might still be a gubernatorial candidate in 2012, Hill could lose his seat

next year in redistricting, but he, too, lost to Coats in a statewide race.

So who do the Democrats turn to at this critical point? Here's a list that may or may not be on Parker's desk, but on paper, makes sense.

1. Pete Viscloskey. He hasn't been mentioned in conversations about this seat, but he is the senior Democrat in the Indiana congressional delegation. What makes him attractive aside from his experience is that his voting record is not that liberal and holding his seat will be simpler than holding any other seat in the Indiana delegation. The only drawback is a controversy involving contributions and contracts that should not be a detriment to a serious campaign.

2. David Johnson. He ran against Sen. Richard Lugar. A Phi Beta Kappa and the head of Indiana's Biocrossroads initiative, he is the intellectual contender and Indianapolis-connected candidate that makes sense because he has run statewide.

3. Bart Peterson. He may not want to leave a governmental relations post with Eli Lilly, but he is a former Bayh staffer and he has a glossy resume as a two-term Indianapolis mayor. Many swore at him during his losing race with Greg Ballard. Those same detractors may be willing to swear by him now.

None of these names may turn out to be winners, and the pick faces a daunting task given the time frame. But Bayh has left his party with a short chip shot to make the cut of holding on to a Senate. The Republican field is the weakest it has been in decades and it may not take much to keep this seat in the Democratic column.

From a national perspective, Bayh's departure means a certain loss of identity for the Democrats. As the most conservative Dem in the Senate, he was symbolically a pull to the center that tethered the party to a more centrist crowd of moderate voters. It's up to Nebraska's Ben Nelson to become that symbol now.

As for Indiana, with Lugar and Bayh, the state had arguably the best 1-2 punch of Senators from both parties of any state. Both have been respected and they've worked well together. Years from now, political scientists will be looking back on the times when Indiana was served by both of them and say, "Those were the good old days." ❖

Kitchell is an award winning column from Logansport.



Transpo plans are doomed to be ignored

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - With some regularity, citizens in major Hoosier communities issue transportation reports that call for continued improvement of existing roads and streets with additional resources devoted to extensive multiple means of mass transit. Newspapers endorse the plan and it is shelved.



Morton Marcus
Column

These plans are offered to reduce congestion, commuting time, energy usage, and environmental damage. They may include financing suggestions encompassing tolls, fees, and taxes. But they are doomed to be ignored because no local government, and certainly not the Indiana state legislature, is interested in transportation. The exceptions might be airports and inter-city "high-speed" trains as long as the federal government foots an over-whelming portion of the bill.

Transportation has been a key to long-term economic health. As transportation costs decline, the quality of life advances. Behind the decline in transportation costs lies industrial progress. Humanity learns how to do something and applies that knowledge to reducing the costs of transporting people, goods, and information.

We have seen this with travel on water and land as well as in and through the air. Railroads, steam ships, automobiles and trucks, airplanes and our cell phones are obvious examples. Historically, governments eager to ride the latest model bandwagon will subsidize the newest technology.

In the U.S., we gave land to the railroads, built ports for ships, highways for autos and trucks, airports for planes, and gave away or charged little for transmission frequencies. Today we are subsidizing "high" speed rail and electric motors for trucks and autos. ("High" speed rail in the U.S. is defined as 120 miles per hour. In other countries, where the distances between major cities are smaller, trains already run at 220 miles per hour.)

There is, however, no comprehensive plan or coordinating agency to administer and implement such a plan. Certainly, there is neither substantive nor sustaining financing for any plan. Why not?

We have what we have and we cannot imagine better. Our private vehicles, with camouflaged subsidies, are warm and secure. They operate on our schedules, play our preferred music, and allow us to converse with friends

while applying makeup or eating breakfast. What could be better? Well.... a covered parking space right next to our destination would be nice. Also.... it would be good if there were fewer cars competing with us for limited highway or street space.

People who focus on the big picture want to see what is called mass transit. The bus, the trolley, the subway, the railroadthese should be resurrected. They will help bring rationality and efficiency to transportation and land use, advancing civility and civilization.

People who are people-people focus on freedom, lifestyle, and the delights of an atomistic society where collective action is suspect. They see the private auto as the greatest mass transit system yet invented. It can be improved, but not by replacing it with another system.

The problem becomes acute because we have much invested in existing systems both in terms of resources and emotion. As Americans, we Hoosiers do not have a mental model of a comprehensive transit system. How would it work? How can we get from Madison to Merrillville better than we can today?

Should we have transit that reinforces downtown in our town? Isn't that just a subsidy for downtown land owners who want to recoup their losses of the last century? Won't that somehow destroy the congeniality of folks in Princeton and Portland? Can Terre Haute survive if Chicago and St. Louis are each about an hour away? Where is the concern for the people of Hancock County in the Indianapolis plan?

It is easier for us to raise these practical questions than to endorse dreams that will not be realized in less than a quarter-century. What would happen if the sound and solid citizens behind the transit plans sold the sizzle and aroma of a steak rather than the recipe for a nice salad? That is, what if they approached transit as a politician approaches an election. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, speaker, and writer formerly with IU's Kelley School of Business.



Charlie Lane, Washington Post: Millions of Americans long to tell their bosses “take this job and shove it.” Hardly any have the power and money to do so, especially in these recessionary times. Sen. Evan Bayh (D) of Indiana, however, is the exception. His stunning retirement from the Senate is essentially a loud and emphatic “screw you” to President Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. For months now, Bayh has been screaming at the top of his voice that the party needs to reorient toward a more popular, centrist agenda -- one that emphasizes jobs and fiscal responsibility over health care and cap and trade. Neither the White House nor the Senate leadership has given him the response he wanted. Their bungling of what should have been a routine bipartisan jobs bill last week seems to have been the last straw. I don’t doubt that Bayh could have won re-election -- though he probably did not relish the prospect of a very nasty campaign revolving around GOP attacks on his wife’s business activities. Let it never be forgotten that Bayh is a perennial Democratic golden boy, the keynote speaker at the party’s 1996 convention, scion of a political dynasty, proven vote-getter in a red state and, in his own mind, prime presidential timber. For him, then, the question was: even if I win, who needs six more years of dealing with these people, after which I might be 60 years old and trying to pick up the pieces of a damaged political party brand? And don’t get him started on the Republicans! I think we have to take Bayh at his word when he quite justifiably expressed disgust not only with the jobs bill fiasco, but also when he lashed out at the Senate Republicans who opportunistically voted down a bipartisan budget-balancing commission they had previously endorsed. Quitting the Senate was a no-lose move for the presidentially ambitious Bayh, since he can now crawl away from the political wreckage for a couple of years, plausibly alleging that he tried to steer the party in a different direction -- and then be perfectly positioned to mount a centrist primary challenge to Obama in 2012, depending on circumstances. Not only does it imperil the president’s short-term hopes of passing health care and other major legislation this year. It also makes it much more likely that the Republicans can pick up Bayh’s Senate seat in normally red Indiana and, with it, control of the Senate itself. If present trends continue, November could turn into a Republican rout. ❖

Kevin Drum, Mother Jones: The big political news today is that Sen. Evan Bayh (D–Ind.) has decided not to run for reelection. He made this decision four days before the deadline for candidates to qualify for the June primary ballot, leaving Democrats in a considerable bind. Here are

two measures of what a surprise this is. One: Ken Spain, spokesman for the NRCC, simply tweets “unreal” as he begins a series of observations about what this means for Democrats. Two: a Democratic strategist confirms to me that Bayh didn’t let anyone at any level of the party know about this, and shares with me an expletive I won’t share about the man himself. Luke Russert tweets: “Amazing, Bayh told his staff he was done on Friday and didn’t call Harry Reid until 25 minutes ago!!!” If that’s true, it’s pretty remarkable behavior even for someone as famously callow as Bayh. So why did he quit so suddenly? His official statement says he’s frustrated with the Senate because there is “too much partisanship and not enough progress — too much narrow ideology and not enough practical problem-solving.” Maybe. Alternatively, he’s tired of taking hits from party liberals, who aren’t exactly fans of his ostentatious centrism and bipartisan preening. That’s pretty much Marc Ambinder’s take: “He wanted to be POTUS and came to hate the Senate and liberal activists. He wanted no mas.” In any case, Bayh had already raised \$13 million for his reelection campaign, and up until a few days ago he was assuring party leaders that he would run. Pulling out at this late date is a pretty explicit show of pique, and an obvious gift to Republicans, whose odds of picking up Indiana in November just went way up. Bayh didn’t quite give Democrats the finger on his way out, but he did everything short of it. ❖

Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star: What began as a slow and snowy Presidents Day in Indiana suddenly became one of the biggest political days in the state in this young century. Sen. Evan Bayh is not running for reelection, a decision that reshapes the political structure in Indiana, while immediately sending political minds spinning and raising a host of crucial questions. Which Democrat will step up to take Bayh’s spot on the ballot? Do Democrats without Bayh have any chance of holding onto the Senate seat in this Republican-leaning state? How does this impact the GOP primary, and former Sen. Dan Coats’ chances? What is Bayh’s legacy? Who becomes the face of the Indiana Democratic Party? Why did Bayh wait so long -- just before the filing deadline -- to announce his decision? The news makes you wonder whether Rep. Mike Pence and Secretary of State Todd Rokita regret their decisions not to enter the race. Pence in particular would have likely cleared the GOP field -- perhaps not officially but for all practical purposes. This stunner of an announcement removes from the ballot a politician credited by many with the rebirth of the state Democratic Party and a man who came within inches of the vice presidency less than two years ago. ❖





D'Ippolito won't have enough signatures

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Dan Parker said it's likely that no Democrats will qualify for the primary ballot (Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press). Tamyra D'Ippolito of Bloomington previously has announced her intention to run in the Democratic primary, but she is not backed by the state Democratic Party, and party officials said Monday they don't expect her to have enough signatures. D'Ippolito said Monday afternoon she is 1,000 signatures short in total. And she has none of the 500 necessary in Southwestern Indiana's 8th District. She said she has e-mailed each county's party chairs and will count on their assistance today. Whether that assistance will be offered, however, is less clear. "They have the power to make this happen, and if they refuse to do so, that's just the way it is," D'Ippolito said.



Jones says Hill will take a look at Senate race

RISING SUN - U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, D-9th District, has emerged as one of several possible candidates to replace Evan Bayh as the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate (Louisville Courier-Journal). Minutes after Bayh's announcement Monday that he won't seek re-election this year, Democrats and Republicans began speculating about potential candidates. But some of those mentioned — including former Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, D-2nd District — took themselves out of the running almost immediately. Hill, a former state lawmaker and business-

man from Seymour, is out of the country, however, and couldn't be contacted about the possibility. "I'm sure Baron Hill will be among several Democrats who will take a look at the race," said Mike Jones, the 9th District Democratic chairman and a member of the party's 32-member state central committee, which is expected to select the nominee.

Bauer won't seek Bayh Senate seat

INDIANAPOLIS - House Speaker Pat Bauer, D-South Bend, said Monday he's not interested in running. "I'd rather support someone else," he said (Louisville Courier-Journal). Bauer also said he was too stunned by Bayh's decision to speculate about a replacement.

Menendez vows to hold on to Bayh seat

WASHINGTON - "The Indiana Senate seat is one that we will fight to hold on to," said U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "We will have a strong Democratic candidate on the ballot there who will be running against a weakened Republican field."

Legislators shocked by Bayh decision

INDIANAPOLIS - State Rep. Gregory Porter, D-Indianapolis, was presiding over the House Education Committee on Monday morning when an aide handed him a piece of paper (Carden, Times of Northwest Indiana). He looked at it indifferently. And then he looked again. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh was not going to run for re-election, it said. "Wow," Porter mouthed silently to himself. That single word -- wow -- was on the lips of many state lawmakers when they heard the unexpected news. "I've been around politics long enough that nothing shocks me, but

that did surprise me," said state Rep. Chuck Moseley, D-Portage. State Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh, D-Crown Point, had a similar reaction. "He's so young," VanDenburgh said of the 54-year-old Indiana Democrat. "He's been there a while, but he still had a lot of years left to serve." The average age of a U.S. senator is 61.7 years old, according to the Congressional Research Service. But some Northwest Indiana representatives said they could understand why Bayh chose not to run again. "He didn't feel he was up to the challenge to be a leader in the Senate," said state Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon, D-Munster. "You can't sit on the fence and make everybody happy all the time." Bayh's generally moderate positions tended to play well with Indiana voters but were problematic in the increasingly partisan Senate. State Rep. Tom Dermody, R-LaPorte, said he believes Bayh was afraid he was going to lose to a Republican challenger in November. "They're all in trouble. You can't continue to spend people's money we don't have," Dermody said of the Democratic Party, which controls both houses of Congress. For state Rep. Chet Dobis, D-Merrillville, a 39-year veteran of the Indiana House, Evan Bayh has just always been around. "I've known him forever," Dobis said. "I walked Evan Bayh in the Hobart Fourth of July parade when he was 11 years old."

Bartholomew chairman sees 'bad' news

COLUMBUS - The decision by U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., not to seek re-election caught local Democrats and Republicans by surprise, and the chairmen of both local parties believe it benefits the GOP (Columbus Republic). "I think this bodes well for Republicans and bad for Democrats," said Gary Bell, chairman of the Bartholomew County Democratic Party. Bayh's announcement just days before Friday's deadline to file for election leaves Democrats in a bind, Bell said,



because there is not enough time for a candidate to collect the required signatures and have them verified.

Mayors England, Galligan shocked

NEW ALBANY - Local officials were as surprised as everyone else about Sen. Evan Bayh's announced departure from politics Monday (Mann, News & Tribune). "I was shocked," New Albany Mayor Doug England said of Bayh's decision to not run for re-election. "I was mayor when he was governor and we became really good friends." "He was a good governor and a good senator," said Greg Isgrigg, president of the Clarksville Town Council and a fellow Democrat. He first heard about Bayh's decision when a reporter called to get comment on the matter. "He's liked by the Democrats and the Republicans. I hate to see him go," Isgrigg said. Jeffersonville Mayor Tom Galligan, a Democrat, said he too was surprised by the announcement, calling it a very important office. "He's been as helpful as he can be," said Galligan, who noted that Bayh was against earmarks, so he didn't normally work with city government on federal funding matters. Bayh is in his second six-year term in the Senate. He first came to office in 1998, just after vacating the Indiana governor's office. His father, Birch Bayh, also served as a U.S. senator, starting in 1962. "To put it in the words most Hoosiers can understand: I love working for the people of Indiana, I love helping our citizens make the most of their lives, but I do not love Congress," Bayh said in a prepared statement that was obtained by The Associated Press prior to the afternoon announcement in Indianapolis. "He has to have some reason not to run," England, a Democrat, mused. "I think it has something to do with the lack of faith people have at the national level. "I know something of what he is feeling," England continued. "When you know in your heart

you are doing your best and are still criticized, you just want to say here, you take it. I hate to see good people like him getting out of government."

Brown still pursuing smoking ban

INDIANAPOLIS - State Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, said Monday that he will continue to push for a bill that would ban smoking in most public places (Indianapolis Star). Brown said the watered-down version of House Bill 1131 now in a Senate committee was not his intent. "It saddens me to think that the bill that passed out of the House is considerably different than the introduced version of the bill," he said. Brown and Sen. Gary Dillon, R-Pierceton, sent a letter Monday urging senators to remove exemptions that would allow smoking in private offices, restaurants, bars, casinos and other hospitality workplaces, and to pass a comprehensive ban across the Hoosier state. Senate President Pro Tempore David Long, R-Fort Wayne, has said he doesn't expect the bill to pass, adding that this isn't the year for such a law because of the poor economic climate.

Casino earnings bill moves in House panel

INDIANAPOLIS - Several members of a House panel wavered Monday before approving a bill that would force Indiana casinos to sift through a database of deadbeat parents and refuse to pay out if someone owed back child support (. However, the bill ultimately received unanimous approval by the House's Public Policy Committee with a 10-0 vote. Three amendments to Senate Bill 163 clarified collection priorities, made arrangements for parents on active military duty and gave casinos a chance to be rewarded for their efforts. Before voting in favor of the bill, three lawmakers said they worried the state was shirking responsibilities and mixing up its priorities. Rep. Terri

Austin, D-Anderson, said she voted on behalf of working single parents, despite her own concerns the bill was passing off governmental responsibilities to private corporations.

Zoeller clears Young on robo call charge

INDIANAPOLIS - Todd Young's campaign, which had been accused of using robocalls, a practice that is illegal here in Indiana, was recently cleared of any wrongdoing by Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller after a complaint had been filed against his campaign (Hoosier Access). According to the notice of complaint sent to the Young campaign by the Indiana Attorney Generals office: The office of Attorney General of Indiana has received a complaint that your campaign has made one or more auto-dialed pre-recorded message calls to Indiana residents. According to our information, your campaign, or someone acting on behalf, called Indiana telephone numbers on the enclosed list and transmitted pre-recorded messages. You are requested to cease making auto-dialed pre-recorded message calls to Indiana residents immediately. If you believe that you fall within any exemptions provided by Indiana law, you must provide documentation supporting your exemption claim. The Todd Young campaign responded in writing by saying: "... our campaign would like to make clear that we have never used, employed, or otherwise engaged the services of automatic dialing - announcing devices, auto-dialers, auto-dialing, or predictive dialing equipment of any kind, whatsoever. Second, after a thorough investigation our campaign believes the alleged auto-dialed message was actually the product of our live person volunteer phone bank processes..."