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The Howey Political Report

The weekly briefing
on Indiana politics

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EXCLUSIVE

Surging Souder, Hostettler to get help from national GOP

WASHINGTON - Republican challengers Mark Souder and John Hostettler in the 4th and 8th Congressional Districts have been selected by the Republican National Congressional Campaign Committee to be fully funded in the last three weeks before election day.

The two surging challengers join 2nd CD Republican David McIntosh as races that will receive \$60,000 in coordinated campaign activities and cash.

"We think Indiana is going to be a very good state for us," said Dan Leonard, communications director for the RNCC. "We are encouraged by recent developments."

The *Howey Political Report* elevated both races into its Horse Race "toss up" category on Sept. 29. Before then, most attention in Indiana, and particularly in the Indianapolis media market, centered on the 2nd and 7th CDs in central Indiana.

Other analysts are following suit. Charles Cook of the Cook Political Report declared Hostettler's challenge to U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey a toss up last week. Earlier this week, Stuart Rothenberg of the Rothenberg Political Report added the 4th and 8th CDs into his "toss up" category, noting that "the appearance of a wave in Indiana has suddenly placed two Democrats, Frank McCloskey and Jill Long, in considerable jeopardy."

Two recent polls give Souder and Hostettler identical 46-43 percent leads over McCloskey and Long. Another poll conducted by the Indiana Republican State Committee gave Hostettler a 41-40 percent lead. Said one high-placed Democratic insider who requested anonymity, "Frank is in big trouble."

Sources tell HPR that two weeks ago, U.S. Sen. Dan Coats contacted the RNCC and implored funding for both races.

Particularly startling is Long's erosion of support. Going into the fall sequence, the three-term Democrat appeared to be withstanding the national trends after she parted ways with President Clinton on such key issues as NAFTA and the first Clinton budget. Even more

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Quote Of The Week:

"Let's face it: Americans are lousy followers. We admire power, yet fear it. We like to unload responsibilities on our leaders, yet we dislike being bossed around."

- Thomas E. Cronin
New York Times

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Souder-Hostett *fr. from page 1*

noteworthy is that at the Sept. 30 financial reporting period, Souder held a \$202,267 to \$174,479 money advantage over the incumbent.

"You weren't as astounded as we were," Souder said of his campaign funding lead. His campaign will receive a further boost when former Vice President Dan Quayle comes to Fort Wayne to campaign on Oct. 31. That is a significant development. Souder said in an *HPR* interview in early September that he was reluctant to ask for a Quayle appearance because if he lost the former vice president's district after such a visit, it would reflect poorly on Quayle.

While Long will likely receive a significant campaign funding boost after the reporting period, the fact that

"Incumbents very often have not had much to fear. In the last two elections that's begun to shift and it may be that we're at the most acute stage of that shift..." - Michael Downs

Souder was leading her at such a late date is remarkable given that he had only \$10,000 at the June 30 reporting period. In early August, Rothenberg was calling Long "a clear favorite" and said that Souder would need "a big Republican wave" to become competitive.

Republicans apparently are preparing their surf boards. A *Times-Mirror* poll last week gave Republicans an astounding 62-40 percent lead in a generic national congressional vote. In 1992, with a mere 3 percent lead in the same poll, the GOP won 10 House seats. An Associated Press poll conducted by ICR Survey Research Group revealed that 35 percent said their current representative deserved re-election and 54 percent said it was time for someone new.

"If the new *Times-Mirror* poll is an actual reflection of the election, then the Republicans are going to take over the House," Rothenberg said. "We are reiterating our estimate of House Republican gains of at least 30 seats and we believe that Democratic control of the House is in jeopardy."

The reason Indiana Democrats are in trouble seems to be Bill Clinton.

"The Republicans have succeed in nationalizing this election," Rothenberg explained. "The DNC (Democratic National Committee) has acknowledged that it's worked. Now Clinton is trying to cast the contract the Republicans signed as a Reagan versus Clinton, and a Bush versus Clinton."

Said Souder of Long, "If she wants to make it Clinton versus Reagan, I'll take it."

Prof. Mike Downs of Indiana-Purdue, Fort Wayne, noted that running against a president works "only if there's a local connection. If you run against the president in an area where the president is unpopular, it works."

The anomaly in all this GOP euphoria may come in the 2nd CD, where McIntosh has staked nearly his

entire campaign on connecting Democrat Joe Hogsett to President Clinton. His latest ad, taken on cue from last spring's special election in Kentucky, "morphs" Hogsett's face into Clinton's. It's a risk because as that ad hit the air, a poll Brian Vargus conducted for the *Indianapolis Star/WISH-TV* revealed that Clinton's job approval rating in the 2nd CD had risen from the low 30s to the mid to upper 40s in the last month.

"Clinton has been on a two-week sprint," said Democratic strategist Bill Schreiber. "If I were a Republican, I'd be wary of that."

Leonard counters that foreign relations victories don't have the enough positive impact to overcome overseas blunders. "If President Clinton goes to the Middle East a week before the election, that means their candidates don't want him. He'd be safer in Jordan."

Thomas E. Cronin of the *New York Times* summed up part of Clinton's problems with voters. "He lacks discipline and focus. He vacillates and procrastinates. He tries to please everyone and he is a relentless spinmaster. His advisers don't inspire much confidence."

But Cronin adds this about us: "Let's face it. Americans are lousy followers. We admire power, yet fear it. We like to unload all our responsibilities on our leaders, yet we dislike being bossed around. We celebrate the individual and the idea that one person can make a difference, yet we inherently suspect those who have made it to the top - especially those at the top of large institutions."

That, explains Downs, is not limited to the presidency but all institutions in general. "The fact that incumbents are either behind or locked in tight races is not as surprising as it is remarkable," Downs said. "When you take a look at the record in the past decade incumbents have very often not had much to fear. They had name recognition, money and the ease of free publicity. In the last two elections that's begun to shift and it may be that we're at the most acute stage of that shift."

Downs added, "If there were a third well-organized party, both Democrats and Republicans would be hurt by it. If Ross Perot had been running third party candidates, the outcomes would be very different."

Quayle enters 2nd CD fray

MUNCIE - A TV ad by Secretary of State Joe Hogsett alleges that while serving on the Competitiveness Council, David McIntosh tried to "repeal rules that protect Indiana workers and consumers from cancer-causing chemicals."

The ad also said that McIntosh "even tried to block warning labels designed to protect children."

Late Tuesday night, former Vice President Dan Quayle released a statement: "One of the first things Bill Clinton did after being sworn in was to pay off those special interest groups by abolishing my Council on Competitiveness. When Joe Hogsett alleges David's work for me at the council, Joe is reading straight from Bill Clinton's script."

The Horse Race

2ND CD	STATUS	COMMENTS
Hogsett (D) v. McIntosh (R)	Toss Up	Star/WISH poll (4.4 +/-) gives Hogsett 30-26 lead; 44% undecided. GOP poll has Hogsett up 40-38. Both campaigns go negative. Quayle doing fly around for McIntosh on Friday.
4TH CD Ling (D) v. Souder (R)	Toss Up	Poll conducted by state Republicans (5.6. +/-) gives Souder 46-43 percent lead. <i>News-Sentinel</i> story says mailing mixup had Souder paying late taxes. Souder: "Headline worse than story."
5TH CD Beatty (D) v. Buyer (R)	Leaning R	Bayh to stump for Beatty in Kokomo on Oct. 26. Buyer picks up endorsements from Law Enforcement Alliance of America and Indiana Farm Bureau's ELECT PAC.
7TH CD Harmless (D) v. Myers (R)	SAFE R	Star/WISH-TV poll has Myers with a 40-20% lead. Harmless tries Penny-Kasich rap on Myers, but National Taxpayers Union dubs the Repub as Indiana's biggest budget cutter.
8TH CD McCloskey (D) v. Hostettler (R)	Toss Up	McCloskey on Hostettler: "A young Jesse Helms." Alcoa union, teachers lining up behind Frank. Cook Political Report calls race "toss up," had been leaning D. Rothenberg says "toss up."
6TH INDIANA HOUSE Bauer (D) v. Fisher (R)	Leaning D	B. Patrick Bauer has TV ads in the can in case things get close. District not as Dem after redistricting (about 65/45). Fisher credible. This is one to watch if GOP tidal wave starts to loom large.
74TH INDIANA HOUSE Phillips (D) v. Lambert (R)	TOSS UP	Long corruption probe has to sting, but a trooper named Durnil is an odd twist. GOP tracking here. Lambert releases MKP financial reports at Farm Bureau forum - .6% from 74th. MKP poll has double digit lead.

TRENDLINE: With Speaker Phillips tied down, Pat Bauer would be the logical All-State stumper, but Zeal Fisher may be attempting to keep the South Bend Democrat busy.

Phillips, Garton upsets fading after "first blush"?

INDIANAPOLIS - When Gretchen Hale of the *ISTA* learned of the *Evansville Courier* poll showing House Speaker Michael K. Phillips in a deadheat with Republican Sally Rideout Lambert her reaction was, "That will be a wake up call for Warrick County Democrats."

Observers from both parties are now pulling back a bit from the upset mania that centered on the Phillips-Lambert House race as well as Democrat Jessica Webb's spirited challenge to Sen. Robert Garton.

In the Phillips race, news of the past week was mixed. Leaked word of an investigation into his law partner, Warrick County prosecutor and Democratic chairman Tony Long, on political corruption charges had to sting. It was leaked, however, by Indiana State Police Trooper Mark Durnil, a nephew of former GOP state chairman Gordon Durnil, which seemed to place a political twist on the probe. A poll for Phillips also showed him with a 10-point lead.

Bill Schreiber, a Democratic strategist in Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon's office, believes Lambert may have peaked. "There was a time, at first blush, that people were considering her," Schreiber said. He thinks people are pulling back once they "acknowledge the full Michael K. Phillips record."

"Had Sally laid a strong ID for herself, it might be another story," said Schreiber. "She didn't and it's not."

As for Garton, Schreiber observed, "Like Phillips, Garton has never lost contact with the folks back home. His district has been the beneficiary of leadership. I'm not suggesting the same dynamics are working, but the same results are."

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Legislature Watch

Democrats insist "surprises" in store for Bradbury-Wyss race

FORT WAYNE - It was billed as the "No. 1 targeted" Senate seat by the target himself - Republican Tom Wyss.

But it's been more like the phony war that preceded Hitler's blitzkrieg into the Low Countries back in 1940. Jessica Webb's challenge of Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton has usurped the No. 1 billing. Indiana Democrats insist, though, that Tom Wyss will have his hands full once Democrat Janet Bradbury publicly surfaces within the next few days.

"We're in the hunt on that one," explained State Sen. Robert Hellman, D-Terre Haute, of the Wyss-Bradbury race. "We have a chance at winning."

T date, there have only been a smattering of Bradbury yard signs out. She's sharing an Indiana State Teachers Association coordinator with State Rep. Dale Sturtz, D-LaGrange. In the meantime, Wyss has unleashed an electronic blitzkrieg of his own, vowing to keep on "fighting crime."

Said Hellman, "There's a considerable effort on the ground that isn't showing up on the electronic media yet."

The TV ad campaign, Hellman said, will commence "within days."

Bradbury, a Fort Wayne city councilwoman who has always run successfully spartan campaigns, told HPR that state Democrats haven't given "lots of moral support." She insists she'll be waging the "kinds of campaigns I've always run. We do it with a lot of grass roots," but coyly talks about an "element of surprise."

The Wyss-Bradbury race is puzzling in several respects. It is a 60/50 district. Much of the territory is new to Wyss. It has a large minority makeup. "Historically, last time a Democrat ran in that collection of precincts, they got 47.5 percent of the vote," Hellman explained. "If we can put 3 percent on top of that, you've got a dead even district. That's a toss-up district."

What's puzzling is that in 1992, Democrat Geoff Paddock challenged State Sen. John Sinks in a vastly more Republican district. Paddock waged an intense door-to-door campaign and made a 7.5 percent inroad into Sinks' victory. Paddock's campaign knocked on thousands of doors, tried to reap "free media" from Fort Wayne's disinterested news media throughout the summer, staged numerous press conferences and ran a credible ad campaign.

Bradbury, running in a friendlier district, has been inconspicuous. That's not to say that Wyss has nothing to worry about. Before the primary, Bradbury sent mixed signals to Hellman and the Senate Democrats, who subse-

quently recruited education consultant Samma Brink. Bradbury entered the race anyway. Brink waged an intensive TV ad campaign, tried to network through the education associations, and lost to Bradbury, who spent very little.

Said Hellman of Bradbury, "She equals Wyss in name recognition. She has a pretty good track record in most of those precincts."

Bradbury promises in the next three weeks to address crime ("What we've done in the last 10 years hasn't worked"), judicial reform, and education funding, including a proposal to have school districts share COIT revenues.

In a sense, what we have here is Wyss running a modern blitzkrieg-style campaign, while Bradbury has opted for an old-fashioned version of the nearly invisible Stealth.

"All of these are districts that need some attention. My prognosis each day depends on what kind of juice I've had for breakfast."

SENATE NOTES: Can Jessica Webb really upset Garton? "Bob Garton's awareness level (with voters) is one of the lowest in the state," said Sen. Hellman. "She doesn't leave the porch until she gets the vote. We have to get 4,000 votes." Hellman notes that Paddock was able to move 7.5 percent of the vote in a Republican district, and Webb will have to move 6.5 percent. The key difference is in the year. When Paddock ran, the Democrats won the presidency and governorship, but it still wasn't enough. And this is shaping up to be a rough year for Democrats.

A couple of Senate Democrats appear to be in races for their lives. In Hammond, State Sen. **Frank Mirvan**, with 61 percent of his district new and minus East Chicago and Whiting, is in a tough fight against Republican **Sandy Dempsey**. Former Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott is predicting that U.S. Sen. **Richard Lugar** will win Lake County, and might carry Dempsey along on his coattails. Mirvan will have to come out of Hammond with a big plurality in order to offset stronger GOP voting in Munster and Highland.

In Muncie, the betting is that State Rep. **Fred Wenger** will upset State Sen. **Allie Craycraft Jr.** Former Anderson HS basketball coach **Norm Held** is giving Democratic State Sen. **William McCarty** a tough run. Safer seats for Democrats appear to be in Lafayette, where State Sen. **Mike Gery** is fending off a challenge from David **S. Koltick** (who has lots of signs up). Democrats are optimistic that State Sen. **Larry Macklin**, D-Decatur, will ward off a stiff challenge from Republican **David Ford** of Hartford City. Said Hellman, "All of these are districts that need some attention. My prognosis each day depends on what kind of juice I've had for breakfast."

Perhaps...we wander

A look at Indiana by Brian Howey

Is Jeffers' vow to abolish secretary of state office first salvo for third constitutional convention?

INDIANAPOLIS - There is little doubt that when it comes to a little campaign trail *carpe diem*, Democrat Tim Jeffers has truly seized the day.

But what might be worth considering is how deep this enlightened turn-of-the-century initiative (or can of worms) might go.

Jeffers did it on Sept. 28 when he pledged to become the "best secretary of state, and the last."

Not only did Jeffers grab a lot of attention from the Indiana news media just as it seemed the Republican Statehouse ticket might dance into office, he's received considerable notice elsewhere. The *Washington Post* carried the story earlier this week under the headline "A Job He Can Do Without." It quoted Brent Embrey, an aide to Jeffers opponent Sue Anne Gilroy, as saying, "You have to give him points for PR."

Jeffers maintains that the office created 176 years ago carries "a hodgepodge of clerical responsibilities" that could be carried out by other offices in the state bureaucracy.

Gilroy responded that Jeffers' proposal would make Indiana government less accountable. "This is not the time to take any elective office and bring it into a nameless, faceless bureaucracy," she said.

The initiative has created controversy. The Indianapolis Star editorialized along the lines that Gilroy stated - we need more responsive government. Harrison Ullman of *Nuvo News Weekly* calls the position, "good for politicians on their way to somewhere else, but good for nothing else. Whether we elect Jeffers or Gilroy, we should get rid of it."

A case can be made that Hoosiers take their secretary of state fiefdom seriously. Two successive political heavyweights endured political defeats over entanglements with the office. In 1990, Joe Hogsett derailed Bill Hudnut's attempt to use the secretary of state's office as a launching pad for a 1992 gubernatorial run (and we ended up with Linley Pearson). Two years later, in a row over whether Hogsett had agreed to serve a full term, the Democrat was punted by U.S. Sen. Dan Coats in large part for seeming to be too ambitious. For her part, Gilroy has refused to be specific over whether she will serve a full term.

Frankly, one has to wonder how many Hoosiers lose sleep over whether their secretary of state will be there for two years, as Bill Salin did, or eight years, as Ed Simcox endured.

The office hasn't even served as much of a launching pad in its drab history. Only Evan Bayh and

Larry Conrad used it to scale the heights of Indiana government in recent memory.

But the real significance of Jeffers' well-researched idea goes along the lines that Indiana has a number of offices that 98 percent of the population have no idea about the duties they perform or who is currently performing them.

When Thomas Lincoln brought the family of the future 16th president of the United States into Indiana with-in days of statehood, he did so because the 1816 Constitution platted a grid of counties and townships meant to bolster the integrity of land holdings. In doing so, the grid held little regard for the natural lie of the land. It created governments meant to be responsive to a people who communicated in ancient forms, and who had to travel through wilderness to do so.

Today, we still function under a constitution drafted in 1851 which paid heed to many of the same ancient forms of communication, travel and responsiveness. Today, in an era of fax machines, four-lane state highways and at least one car in nearly every garage, the case can be made that maybe, just maybe, a revision might be in order. But there is a clattering of dissidents.

Let's start with today's conservatives. It's been amusing to watch politicians such as Rex Eary and Al Hubbard - ardent proponents of less government is best - arguing the sanctity of the secretary of state's office.

Mayors such as Republicans Paul Helmke in Fort Wayne, Steve Goldsmith in Indianapolis and Democrat Jim

"Democracy is an evolutionary process, not just revolutionary" - Tim Jeffers

Perron in Elkhart have complained that this ancient scripted government has impeded the evolution of cities that must deal with an array of social decay, and counties increasingly dealing with urban problems.

Helmke likes to ask folks how many can name their township trustee and board. Almost no one can. Goldsmith and Helmke complain bitterly that while their governments have held the line on the tax levy, numerous other unelected taxing districts ratchet up the taxes. Ullman sees almost all of the Statehouse offices - auditor, treasurer, and, for crying out loud, the clerk of the court - as glorified bureaucrats elected at the whim of a largely ignorant electorate.

So, how about a constitutional convention, in, say, 1998, to prepare Indiana government for the next millennium?

Jeffers wouldn't take the bait and call outright for a constitutional convention. He noted that in talking with professors at his alma mater - Wabash College - one night recently, the group came to a consensus that if Indiana government were to be truly revamped to fit our modern needs, "it wouldn't look anything like it does now."

Jeffers then cited Thomas Jefferson: "Democracy is an evolutionary process, not just revolutionary."

Columnists (on Indiana)

Dick Robinson, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* -

"Democrats believe they own the big issues because their man, Gov. Evan Bayh, has won using them. Bayh's stand on taxes, schools and jobs has paid off, say Democrats, and allows them a self-proclaimed proprietary position on those issues. The word 'cheap' says much about Indiana. State employees, who shouldered the burden to help keep taxes low, know cheap. Child welfare caseworkers understand "doing more with less." Funding for public schools as a percentage of the general fund has declined over the last 10 years. Hoosiers understand cheap."

Russ Pulliam, *Indianapolis News* - "The winds are blowing in a Republican direction in the Indiana House of Representatives this fall, and not just because of President Clinton's unpopularity. Republicans are confident they will gain at least six seats in the 100 House races on Election Day and thus overcome the 55-45 majority now held by the Democrats. The Republicans have engineered a comeback, emulating their national GOP congressional counterparts. More than 60 GOP candidates signed a contract on the Indiana Statehouse steps, pledging a cap on state spending, cuts on property tax increases and character emphasis in education. 'There's a distinct difference this time,' notes Rep. Sam Turpin. 'We've got a completely different philosophy on how we would handle the issues.'"

Mike Royko, *Chicago Tribune* - "The brick bounced off the windshield of Richard Jenkins' car just before he got to the Chicago Skyway toll booths. So he told the man in the toll booth, and he said the toll collector responded: 'You too? This has been going on for three days.'" Jenkins was instructed to see a Chicago police officer writing a ticket nearby. 'So I waited. After about 20 minutes, a big semi pulls in and the windshield is smashed. So now we're both waiting for this cop. Finally he rolls down the window and says, "I don't have any report forms for that.'" In the meantime, the city might want to put up a sign near the Skyway that says: 'Welcome to Chicago. And Duck.'"

Bob Greene, *Chicago Tribune* - "Someone had better tell Mr. Big Dog (Glenn Robinson) that he is about to become the 1994 poster child for dim-witted greed. Which, in our current sporting social climate, is not necessarily what a fellow should be striving for. After all, Big Dog's employment possibilities in the world outside basketball would appear to be rather limited; he was not permitted to play during his freshman year at Purdue because of academic deficiencies he brought with him from high school, and it is doubtful that, say, his local Kinko photocopying shop would give him \$69 million to be a third-shift supervisor. An interesting oddity in the Big Dog case is that the owner of the Milwaukee Bucks is U.S. Sen. Herbert H. Kohl. It is highly doubtful that Sen. Kohl, who happens to be in the midst of a re-election campaign, will make the public relations blunder of writing Big Dog a check for

\$100 million."

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - "This campaign reminds me of Landslide Linetty. In an election back in 1978 in South Bend, Landslide was running unopposed. And lost. That's right, Landslide Linetty had no opponent. Unopposed. And he lost. He didn't get a single vote. Election officials said that because nobody voted for Landslide, he couldn't be declared the winner. He lost in his one-candidate race to be a Republican precinct committeeman. Why didn't he vote for himself? Landslide was taken ill the night before the election. The purpose was never to make fun of Edward A. "Landslide" Linetty, who was so devoted to the election process that he was making arrangements for turning over his election day supplies even while awaiting an ambulance on election eve. It's worth telling and retelling, however, because it's a story with a moral. The moral is that nothing should be taken for granted - not even victory when unopposed. Strange things happen in low turnouts. Capable officials sometimes lose. One-issue extremists can win in a sea of apathy."

David Mannweiler, *Indianapolis News* - "Jim Jontz is making a whopper mistake in his run for the U.S. Senate. With limited money, Jontz is limited in his TV ads. He's chosen to go the humor route. Wearing a down-home plaid shirt and driving an old pickup truck, Jontz is shown driving to Indiana cities and towns that share names with foreign countries and recalling how much money Lugar voted for those places. It's cute, but it's dishonest. Congress appropriates a set number of dollars for foreign relations. It can only be spent on foreign relations. Jontz's ad suggests Lugar should take money off the foreign relations pile and spend it on domestic programs in Indiana cities. It can't be done."

Morton Marcus, *syndicated* - "Hoosiers not living in northwest Indiana tend to drive through the area as fast as possible on one of the freeways. About three-quarters of a million people live in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties; they represent 13 percent of the state's population. Twenty years ago more than 15 percent of the income earned by Hoosiers originated in these three counties. Recently, they contributed less than 12 percent of our income. With the passage of time, traditional hostilities are being put aside or forgotten. New leadership is emerging, committed to the future rather than longing to resurrect the past. In the middle of this realignment of aspirations is the Northwest Indiana Forum. The forum is initiating programs that are both creative and constructive. It has entered the health insurance area, enabling small companies to compete with industrial giants for qualified workers. Soon, the forum intends to address the basic issue of education - the quality of instruction. Perhaps citizens in other areas of the Indiana may wish to visit their northwestern cousins. There is much to be learned from those who have had to learn to survive."

Musings and Meanderings

Daley needn't be looking over shoulder, says Bill Hudnut

Should Chicago Mayor **Richard M. Daley** be looking over his shoulder at a potential rival? asks *Chicago Tribune* business columnist **William Gruber**. "I hope not," responded former Indianapolis Mayor **William Hudnut III**. "I left partisan politics at the state line when I moved up here." Hudnut moved into a near north side apartment, saying he couldn't afford to buy since his home in Indianapolis is unsold. And he's already at work heading up the Civic Federation, testifying last week in support of a new Cook County Hospital. Hudnut and Daley spent an hour recently discussing education and other local issues.

If anyone had any doubts about whether Gov. **Evan Bayh** is a conservative, one needs just 30 seconds to watch Democrat treasurer candidate **Katie Humphrey's** newest TV ad. Appearing with Bayh, the Humphrey commercial ends with the words: "Conservative, independent."

The *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* has set up a debate of sorts between U.S. Rep. **Jill Long** and Republican **Mark Souder** via its Talking Newspaper line. Both candidates answer six questions. The number is 219-424-1414, ext. 1193.

The *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* has endorsed State Rep. **Barb Engle**, R-Decatur, in the 79th House district, State Rep. **Win Moses** in the 81st and State Rep. **B n GiaQuinta** in the 80th. Engle faces Democrat **Charles "Porky" Holt**, GiaQuinta is in a rematch with Republican **John Becker**, and Moses has a rematch with Republican **Donald Edgar**. The editorial on Moses noted, "It's disappointing there wasn't a theme to Moses' first term beyond support of jobs and education. But a Moses theme may be emerging now as he calls for greater state attention to children under age 6."

Expansion Management Magazine has ranked 17 Indiana public school systems in the following order, with the "education quotient" on a scale of 50 to 150 in parentheses: Evansville (106.2), Columbus (102.9), Bloomington (102.7), Lafayette (99.9), Kokomo (97.0), Fort Wayne (95.9), Muncie (92.9), Terre Haute (92.4), Anderson (88.9), South Bend (87.6), Indianapolis (87.4), Marion (85.6), Elkhart (83.2), Richmond (80.7), Hammond (78.9), Michigan City (74.8) and Gary (64.1). The index is used by Money magazine as part of the data in its annual "Best

Places to Live" survey.

The Michigan City Chamber of Commerce has announced a \$1.6 million fund drive to support education projects. The drive comes after eight of the city's 16 schools were put on probation by the state Department of Education in its performance-based accreditation report. At a recent Michigan City School Board meeting, **Janet Oregon** of the *News-Dispatch* wrote, "While adults raged at each other about the merits of realigning schools, students who might have to live with the changes were more philosophical."

The *New York Times* reports that a strike at Marion's Ampad stationary factory is having an impact in the Massachusetts race between U.S. Sen. **Edward Kennedy** and Republican **Mitt Romney**. The challenger has claimed to have created 10,000 jobs as a venture capitalist, but since he and fellow investors acquired Ampad in July, 41 out of 265 Marion jobs have been eliminated. Romney explained that the cuts will insure the company's survival. A Kennedy film production crew has been in Marion to interview workers for TV ads now airing. An Ampad "truth squad" traveled to Massachusetts to grill Romney prior to a Columbus Day parade.

Grant County Democratic Chairman **David Payne** complimented the campaign of Senate candidate **Jim Jontz**. "He has had a tireless campaign," said Payne (**David F. Nelson**, *Marion Chronicle-Tribune*). "He should do very well in the 5th District." GOP Chairman **J hn Earnest** seemed to buck the Republican trend to nationalize the election, explaining, "All politics is local. If everyone went to the polls and voted, then the Republicans would be in trouble."

Republican secretary of state candidate **Sue Anne Gilroy** has described Indiana state government as "one huge clogged drain" (**Janet McIntyre**, *Huntington Herald-Press*). Speaking before the local Rotary Club Oct. 11, Gilroy added, "You do hear that message stronger and stronger the farther you get away from Indianapolis." Gilroy called the \$6 million in fees collected by the secretary of state's office excessive and said she wants to abolish many of them.

The *Michigan City News-Dispatch* reports that the Halloween costume most in demand is not available. The costume kit contains an **O.J. Simpson** mask, plastic knives and a jersey splattered with fake blood.

The most vocal opponent to riverboat gambling in Porter County, the **Rev. Milton Gould**, pleaded guilty to

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Read Brian Howey's "Politicking" Column in these great newspapers
 Angola Herald-Republican, Anderson Herald-Bulletin, Auburn Evening Star, Bluffton News-Banner, Brazil Times
 Columbia City Post & Mail, Connersville News-Examiner, Decatur Daily Democrat, Elkhart Truth,
 Fountain County Neighbor, Frankfort Times, Indianapolis Business Journal, Indianapolis News,
 Kendallville News-Sun, Muncie Evening Press, Michigan City News-Dispatch, New Castle Courier-Times,
 Newton County Enterprise, Peru Daily Tribune, Shelbyville News, Wabash Plain Dealer

Musings and Meanderings

two counts of child battery reduced from child molesting a number of years ago in Miami County, said **Jack Arnett**, president of the LaPorte County Labor Coalition (*Michigan City News-Dispatch*). Said Gould, "Obviously, it is true; it is not a record that we've tried to hide. My church knew about the situation before I moved here." The case involved the fondling of a 14-year-old girl.

□Fort Wayne Mayor **Paul Helmke** has called for the state to cease interfering with local governments. "The state legislature wants to be a super county council," said Helmke at the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns convention. IACT has placed home rule at the top of its 10 resolution wish list.

□What occurred in Fayette County a week ago has happened all over the state: the County Council "with downcast eyes" voted to seek a \$921,000 loan from Fifth Third Bank to bail out the county's beleaguered welfare system (**Eric Michael Cox**, *Connersville News-Examiner*). The wards and institutions line item has forced the county to borrow \$1.4 million over two years. Wrote Cox, "The welfare funding issues coupled with a new, state-mandated school funding formula, could effect an increase in Fayette County property taxes of as much as 40 to 70 percent in 1996."

□**Jack and Mary Green** wrote a letter to the *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* endorsing State Sen. **Tom Wyss**. The Greens' daughter, **Leslie**, was killed by a drunk driver in 1993. It was an event that spurred Wyss into successfully seeking open container legislation. "Working tirelessly and effectively with members of both parties, he raised the issue above partisan differences," the Greens wrote. "Tom led the way."

□Alas, a whiff of smoke from the moribund 3rd CD

race between U.S. Rep. **Tim Roemer** and Republican **Rich Burkett** - debating over whether to debate Roemer says schedule is packed.

□Elkhart Mayor **Jim Perron** hasn't made up his mind whether to seek a fourth term. But the Democrat told HPR, "I'm gearing in that direction." He added, "I'm still excited about what we're doing here. But I'm taking my own pulse." Republicans seem excited about the looming campaign of City Councilwoman **Carol McDowell**.

Humor Mill

If former Purdue star Glenn "Big Dog" Robinson signs a \$100 million contract, will that be seen as a major economic development event in the Gary/Schererville area? And if that does occur, HPR would be willing to consider a corporate sponsor and a name change to the "Big Dog Political Report."

Wendellisms, by Wendell Trogdon, *Indianapolis News*

"The Senate is so old it runs on fossil fuel."

"It cost more to get Jean-Bertrand Aristide in office than it does some U.S. congressmen."

The Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce

Circus, *n.* A place where horses, ponies and elephants are permitted to see men, women and children acting the fool.

Controversy, *n.* A battle in which spittle or ink replaces the injurious cannonball and the inconsiderate bayonet.

Compulsion, *n.* The eloquence of power.

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