

If GOP takes Congress, can they govern? Or will it be revenge?

GREENWOOD - It's a hypothetical question extraordinary and one few people have given much thought to.

But with a variety of polls and pundits predicting a Republican takeover of the U.S. Senate and House, the question is this: will the Republicans have the ability and cohesiveness to function as a majority party? Or will it be two years and out, with the specter of the re-election of Bill Clinton looming in the future?

For the first time since 1954, Republicans are leading in generic national polls as to whether a person would vote Democrat or Republican for Congress. In the House, Republicans would need a pickup of 40 seats to gain control. John Morgan of the *Wall Street Journal* is predicting a 51-seat GOP pickup. Stuart Rothenberg of the *Rothenberg Political Report* is predicting a 30 to 35-seat pickup. Charles Cook of the *Cook Political Report* is predicting a 30-35 seat pickup. Brian Vargas of the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory says 31 to 32.

Three House seats in Indiana are among 70 across the nation considered to be too close to call: the 2nd CD race between Democrat Joe Hogsett and Republican David McIntosh (new Fabrizio-McLaughlin poll had McIntosh leading 42.6-39.3); the 4th CD between U.S. Rep. Jill Long and Republican Mark Souder (WPTA-TV poll had it knotted at 44 percent each); and the 8th CD between U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey and Republican John Hostettler. Of the 70 seats nationally too close to call, 50 (including the three in Indiana) are currently Democratic.

Even without a 40-seat pickup, U.S. Rep. Newt Gingrich said on CBS *"Face the Nation"* Sunday that if Republicans are five or six seats short, as many as a dozen Southern Democrats might change parties.

But Gingrich has stumbled in recent weeks on the question of how a Republican-controlled Congress would govern and some of the "generic" GOP congressional poll support has waned in the last few days (ABC/Washington Post had Democrats leading Republicans 50-

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The Howey Political Report

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on Indiana politics

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Quote Of The Week:

"It certainly reduces marginally the strong anti-Clinton feeling and should marginally help the Democrats,"

U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton
on foreign policy successes
U.S. News & World Report

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45 in the congressional generic after trailing most of the fall.) His "Contract for America" has been shot full of holes by economists who contend that it would bring back the worst aspects of Reaganomics (higher deficits). So controversial has the contract been that it not only handed President Clinton and the Democrats an issue, but Souder said that the National Republican Campaign Committee has forbidden Republicans in targeted races from using \$60,000 in 11th-hour money to promote the contract in TV ads.

Then, on Oct. 12, Gingrich told a group of lobbyists that Clinton Democrats should be "portrayed as the enemy of normal Americans." He said that a GOP-controlled Congress would use "subpoena power" to create a select committee on corruption to investigate the Clinton administration.

That's not exactly the recipe for an end to gridlock. And there are extreme perils for Republicans, who were quick to tell the nation the day after Clinton was elected president in 1992, "The meter is running." Two years of obstructionism and gridlock could boost Clinton's re-election prospects in 1996 and put control of Congress out of reach for years.

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats expressed concern that Republicans simply haven't sorted out an agenda which can later be parlayed into party cohesiveness if the GOP gains control of Congress. "It will be imperative to come up with a course and strategy soon," Coats said.

Republican National Committeewoman Jean Ann Harcourt acknowledged that all of the current effort has gone into gaining control. "We need to talk about the next two weeks first and then we'll figure what comes next. We've been in the minority for so long," Harcourt said.

Former Vice President Dan Quayle reacted warily to Gingrich's talk of investigations. "It's a bit premature to start talking about investigations in Congress," Quayle told HPR. "We may very well get a Republican Congress first and Newt will obviously be speaker. What he says now is very important."

As for the Republicans' ability to govern, Quayle said, "The elites out there are telling us that if you have a Republican Congress, you're going to have the ultimate of gridlock. That's not necessarily the case. What you'll have is bipartisan legislation. There will be bipartisan agreements if you're going to do anything. Bill Clinton simply can't do nothing for two years. He simply can't say no to a Republican Congress."

Quayle added, "Therefore you will see health care insurance reform passed if you have a Republican Congress. And the reason you'll have that is that Republicans and Democrats will come to an agreement. Now if you get a Democratic Congress again, I don't know what's going to happen. He (Clinton) can't control his own party. They don't invite him in to campaign for them. Under a Republican Congress you would have the possibility of having a genuine bipartisan approach to getting things

done."

Democrats are quick to agree. "I think the best leadership will come from individuals on both sides of the aisle who recognize that bipartisan cooperation gets us much further than partisan bickering," U.S. Rep. Jill Long told HPR this week.

Mike Pence, who hosts Network Indiana's "The Mike Pence Show" and was a two-time congressional candidate, believes Gingrich has prepared himself to be speaker. "I saw a proposed budget he had for the speakership 18 months ago," Pence said. "I think he's developed the personnel aspects to run the speakership if he gets it."

It's the rest of the Republican Party that worries Pence. How many times have we seen the Republicans clutch defeat from the jaws of victory? They scurried from the contract when the lights became too bright. Republicans like pork, too. Some like socialized health care. In that sense, it could do some real violence to the fortunes of the party in recapturing the White House."

He worries that pulling together the ranks of conservatives and moderates runs the risk of having a controlling power more like Bush than Reagan. "I think conservatives like me will find much to complain about. They'll come to power and start moving toward the mushy middle."

It's the pulling together of a party that has placed Democrats in their current predicament. Dr. Leonard Williams of Manchester College noted that during the "JFK had a difficult time. His legislative success rate was worse than Clinton's"

- Dr. Leonard Williams

Kennedy, Carter and Clinton presidencies, Democrats in Congress "didn't know how to be unified. They're so used to being the opposition for Republican presidencies."

The assassination of John F. Kennedy has eroded the nation's collective memory of a Congress bitterly opposed to much of the Democrat's legislation. Then, it was a coalition of Southern Democrats and Republicans. "JFK had a very difficult time. His legislative success rate was worse than Clinton's," Williams said.

Little wonder that the much-anticipated Camelot afterglow has brought the Democrats to the brink of an electoral disaster two weeks hence.

There's only one Republican - U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond - who was in Congress back in 1956 when the GOP lost control, and he was still a Democrat. For all of Newt Gingrich's talk of a plan of action for the first 100 days, the fact is that congressional Republicans have only dreamed of being in the majority.

Kevin Shaw Kellems, an aide to U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, believes that Republicans will be able to coordinate a majority better than Democrats. "There's more cohesiveness. Both parties will always have bomb-throwers on the right and left, but that's what democracy is all about," he said. Should the GOP take control, might a mini-convention be in order?

"I think it would be a good idea," said Harcourt.

The Horse Race

2ND CD	STATUS	COMMENTS
Hogsett (D) v. McIntosh (R)	Toss Up	Fabrizio-McLaughlin poll (10-20; 300 sample; 4.5 +/-; 42.6 McIntosh, 39.3 Hogsett, 18 undecided. <i>Anderson Herald-Bulletin</i> poll (428 in Madison County) Hogsett 34, McIntosh 26.
4TH CD Long (D) v. Souder (R)	Toss Up	WPTA-TV poll (513 sample, 4.5 +/-) has Long and Souder deadlocked at 44%. Long looked vibrant when she picked up farm endorsements. <i>CQ, Pence Report</i> predict Long.
5TH CD Beatty (D) v. Buyer (R)	Leaning R	Beatty headed on a door-to-door blitz this weekend. <i>CQ, Pence Report</i> see Buyer as safe. Buyer maintains big funding lead.
7TH CD Harmless (D) v. Myers (R)	Safe R	<i>CQ</i> says Myers favored. Harmless TV ad uses Myers debate footage where he asks, "What are the perks?" Well, Congressman, since you asked.... Still, too little too late.
8TH CD McCloskey (D) v. Hostettler (R)	Toss Up	<i>CQ</i> calls this "no clear favorite." Says Hostettler "still comes across as ill-prepared." Tom Tuley of <i>Evansville Courier</i> , "This race will be decided by something that hasn't happened yet."
U.S. SENATE Jontz (D) v. Lugar (R)	Safe R	Star/WISH-TV poll gives Lugar 50-16% lead. Jontz was fiesty during debate, but Lugar just too cool. Stresses bipartisan cooperation with Nunn and Leahy. No negative campaigning.
74TH INDIANA HOUSE Phillips (D) v. Lambert (R)	LEANING D	This is pure instinct, but <i>HPR</i> getting the notion that Phillips will prevail. Voters might have tough time flushing away power. When will there be another speaker from Boonville? 2094?

TRENDLINE: Seventy CD races "too close to call" nationwide. Fifty in Dem hands now. Turnout and "Clinton drag" key factors. Things may be more in focus a week from now.

Lugar-Jontz, Hamilton-L ising debate with civility

Two debates early this week showed there is still some civility in the Hoosier political process.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and Democratic challenger Jim Jontz squared off at DePauw University in Greencastle Monday night in a debate televised on C-Span and PBS.

Jontz repeatedly tried to portray Lugar as out of touch with Hoosier voters and accused him of accepting congressional pay raises. Lugar responded by saying that he supported "each commission" that recommended pay increases. He turned to Jontz and added, "You accepted the pay, but you gave a little back."

At the end, Lugar noted that he had not campaigned negatively and added that he was committed to "constructive thought and civility in politics."

On Sunday night in Connersville, U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton squared off with Republican challenger Jean Leising. The event sponsored by United We Stand drew 200 people. A significant point of contention was federal mandates.

"As a state senator, I felt first-hand the impact of bills Congressman Hamilton has pushed through and passed on to our state legislature," Leising said (Eric Michael Cox, *Connersville News-Examiner*).

Hamilton responded by saying Congress "had made a mistake" with mandates. "It really is not fair for the federal government to put a burden on local government. I will propose legislation to identify every bill so that when you read the committee report on the bill you can say, 'Here's an unfunded mandate' and vote to strike it out."

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Congress Watch

2nd CD debate caps tumultuous day

ANDERSON - "You're no Jack Kennedy...."
"Where's the beef?"

"There he goes again...."

Those are catch phrases that have become modern political lore in the past 15 years or so. Add another one after Tuesday's 2nd CD debate between Democrat Joe Hogsett and Republican David McIntosh:

"You just pulled another Bill Clinton."

Astonishingly, it wasn't just McIntosh accusing Hogsett of playing loose with the facts (to become known as "pulling a Bill Clinton.") Twice during the waning portion of this first of four consecutive debates, Hogsett accused McIntosh of the same thing using the same term.

Had Hogsett used the phrase one more time, the Democratic cock might have commenced crowing.

"If I were Joe Hogsett, I'd think of another way to respond to McIntosh," observed Stuart Rothenberg of the Rothenberg Political Report.

The debate at East Side Middle School capped one of the wildest days in the 2nd CD as the race headed into the crucial homestretch. Early in the day, McIntosh's campaign released a Fabrizio-McLaughlin poll showing the Republican with a 46.2 - 39.3 (300 sample, 4.5 +/-) lead over Hogsett. The significant element there is the poll was conducted last Thursday, a day before former Vice President Dan Quayle drew big crowds and significant media attention.

By mid-afternoon, Democratic Chairwoman Ann DeLaney accused the McIntosh campaign and state GOP Chairman Allan Hubbard of violating Federal Election Commission rules. DeLaney said a mailing financed by the Republican State Committee encroached on federal spending limits. "Their reports showed \$5,070 expended on behalf of a voter identification program, with the \$70 of excess spending shown as a loan," an angry DeLaney said.

"They claim it's exempt because a volunteer touched it," DeLaney said. "These labels were printed with an ink jet, with nine-digit zip codes and presorted. Don't tell me this is a volunteer effort.

"Chris Wilson had better get himself a lawyer," DeLaney said. Chris Wilson, McIntosh's campaign manager, showed up at DeLaney's press conference in Muncie late Tuesday afternoon. "I told her that since she was a lawyer, maybe I could retain her," said Wilson, who maintained the mailings met FEC guidelines.

By 7 p.m., both candidates arrived at East Side Middle School to find almost 300 people jammed into a small, sweltering auditorium for the first of four debates on successive nights.

McIntosh was aggressive from the start. He recalled a joint appearance in Greensburg a few months ago. "And Joe said, in answer to the question why he was the best candidate, it was because he was not from Anderson or Muncie; that he felt it was important that voters in the southern part of the district had an advocate on their side, that Anderson and Muncie were fine places, but they could take care of themselves," McIntosh said.

Hogsett momentarily collected his thoughts. "Well, David, for purposes of honesty, you've got to tell people exactly what I said," Hogsett began. "What I said in Greensburg was, it was interesting that of six candidates in the primary, everybody was from Anderson or Muncie but me. But I made the point and the tape proves it - we can show it to you after the debate if you want - I said that I thought Anderson and Muncie could take good care of themselves with a congressman like me.

"To start the debate with that kind of comment is unfortunate," Hogsett added.

The presidential taffy pull didn't start for another 20 minutes. The two candidates were asked to comment on the cynicism of the voters regarding politicians.

"Well, David, you've already signed a contract that you're backing away from," Hogsett began. "People understand that was nothing more than a media event, and all of a sudden you're back in the district saying you wouldn't vote for Social Security cuts or Medicare cuts."

McIntosh then sprang his trap.

"Well, we've got a saying around our campaign, when you act like Bill Clinton, when you say anything or do anything in order to get elected, that you're pulling a Clinton," McIntosh said, turning to Hogsett. "The contract with America never said that we would cut Medicare or Social Security. Joe, I think you just pulled a Bill Clinton."

When McIntosh cited statistics from the Clinton administration on the success of NAFTA, Hogsett responded, "I'm glad to see you agree with something that comes from the Clinton administration. So far, you're in more agreement with President Clinton than I am."

On the issue of jobs, McIntosh again went on the offensive. "I will not say to the people of Anderson, you can take care of yourselves. I will be in Washington fighting for those jobs."

Hogsett retorted: "Now, David, you've pulled a Bill Clinton. I'm very ashamed of you. As I said in Greensburg, I was very clear, we can get you the transcript. I don't know why you intend to mislead the people of Anderson."

Hogsett emphasized his record on budget cutting in his closing statement, but added, "I want to thank my opponent David McIntosh, who, while he pulled a few Bill Clintons - I'll forgive him."

McIntosh closed by taking one more shot at you-know-who: "I think the voters have a clear choice in this election between a Bill Clinton Democrat or a Ronald Reagan, Dan Quayle, Richard Lugar Republican."

Perhaps...we wander

A look at Indiana by Brian Howey

Excuse me... is it all right if Dan Quayle eats here?

NEW CASTLE - The Dan and Dave show was skipping across the 2nd Congressional District like a tornado, touching down and zooming off from airports in Columbus, Richmond and, finally, at mid-day, New Castle.

We're not talking about the two Olympic decathlon athletes, but Dan Quayle and Dave McIntosh, who found the main hangar at the Sky Castle Airport crowded with about 150 adoring supporters.

Dan Quayle, the former newspaperman and future presidential candidate, told those who had gathered from Henry, Shelby and Rush counties that the elite liberal media would be watching McIntosh's race with Democrat Joe Hogsett. "About 6:30 on election night, you're going to have Dan Rathers, the Peter Jennings, Tom Brokaw and Bernie Shaws - all of my close friends. They are going to be watching this campaign with great interest. I want to make them disappointed!" Quayle intoned. "Send a message on election night. I hope that message is a strong no to Bill Clinton."

McIntosh campaign manager Chris Wilson provided this tip as Dan and Dave boarded an Aerostar mini-van: Lunch at McDonald's. Be there.

Perfect. Covering a candidate on the campaign trail is great, but there is often little new gleaned from a stump speech the candidates and mentors give perhaps five times a day. But lunch at McDonald's gives the reporter a chance to gauge reactions and perceptions from a cross-section of the populace as opposed to a controlled gig filled with friendly faces.

I and a crew from WRTV, who also sensed the scent of two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese on a sesame seed bun, hit the gas from Sky Castle to New Castle. When we arrived, Quayle and McIntosh already were greeting folks in the parking lot in front of a wide-eyed procession in the drive-up line.

"Dan Quayle! I've seen you on TV!" said one admirer.

Later, "Dan Quayle here," the former vice president said as Dave and Ruthie McIntosh looked on.

"I know that guy," came the response.

"We're gonna make sure we get Clinton outta there so we have a one-term president," Quayle explained as school girls began tittering with excitement nearby. "We'll be working to make sure that happens."

The man responded: "We talking about 'we' the Republican Party or 'we' you?"

"Well, we're getting closer," said Quayle, who had just formed a presidential PAC and an exploratory committee.

Closer to lunch, too. The party isn't red

McDonald's, which was all-aflutter about that guy on TV. Suddenly, the manager appeared. Sorry, he said, no campaigning on the premises.

"I actually came here to eat. We're hungry,"

Quayle said. "We'll go someplace else that's friendlier."

"There's a Rax across the street," I suggested, attempting to put a spin on the almost unprecedented situation of a candidate, let alone a presidential contender, getting booted from a fast food joint. "Besides, Clinton eats at McDonald's."

This presented an opportunity. I was able to steer my way out of the McDonald's lot, take an almost impossible left onto Indiana 3 and veer into the Rax lot well before the rest of the entourage did. I entered the Rax when it was politically pristine - almost like that sunny Vietnamese village was just before Robert Duvall and "Air Cav" came storming in under the notes of Wagner as they sought the "perfect peak" in *Apocalypse Now*.

The situation would be perfect to gauge the impact of a former vice president stumping for a yearning congressional candidate. The obvious question being, can he really sway votes? The answer is yes. Quayle brings out the crowds and he pulls in the media he now loves to bait.

After a few minutes, I wondered: are they coming? Rax was still quiet as my face pressed the glass, searching the horizon for Dan & Dave. Was that left turn too much? Would there be a diversion, to say, Wendy's, a gender-sensitive gig farther to the right?

No. The van rolled in. McIntosh campaign manager Chris Wilson approached Steve Bills, the Rax manager. "Is it all right if Dan Quayle eats here?" Bills agreed.

McIntosh's campaign aides put in a quick order of a half dozen chicken sandwiches as Quayle chatted with the Rush countians in line. Quayle went table to table greeting voters, many surprised to see him. The place was abuzz. He and McIntosh joined a couple at a table and chatted.

Meanwhile, the McIntosh aides were searching for two sandwiches at the counter. "I'll take the next two sandwiches you've got, whatever they are," an aide shouted.

With the Channel 6 crew interviewing each person Quayle had chatted with, and Quayle and McIntosh eating, Wilson fretted. "We were supposed to be in Muncie five minutes ago."

By the time I sat down with my lunch, Wilson and the two campaign aides had wolfed down their sandwiches like hungry hounds, and were headed to the van. Quayle and McIntosh headed out the door to cries of "Bye, Daaaaaan."

I approached those who had been greeted by Quayle and McIntosh. One woman was embarrassed. "I'm a Democrat," she said, looking unconvinced on her vote, but flattered by the attention.

But a man sporting many tattoos on his fleshy arms seemed convinced. "Gimmie one of those signs," he said. He quickly left with a McIntosh placard in tow.

Columnists (on Indiana)

Tom Tuley, *Evansville Courier* - "Ted Kennedy in trouble? Mike Phillips in trouble? Frank McCloskey in trouble? That, apparently, is the message Democratic political candidates are hearing from pollsters all over the country as the clock ticks down. And if those polls are accurate, a couple of conclusions can be drawn from them. 1.) The backlash in the country over the Clinton administration is even worse than Democrats had feared, even better than Republicans had hoped. 2.) With candidates in most races given an even chance of winning this close to Election Day, you can expect the next two weeks to be particularly testy. One issue, one negative TV ad, one nasty charge - one dirty trick - could be enough to become a deciding factor in a dead-heat race."

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* - "There were a few raised eyebrows last week when Democrat Rep. Jill Long's campaign finance report showed she's lagging behind Republican Mark Souder for '94. So there were some jumpy Democrats and - and jubilant Republicans - in these parts when folks found out that Souder had raised \$27,800 more than Long during 1994. That kind of perception gives a boost to Souder, who takes on the cachet of an incumbent-slayer. That perception also paints Long as vulnerable and seriously in danger of losing. Oddly enough, both perceptions - if they're believed - can translate into money. Keep in mind: during the two-year period in which candidates are allowed to raise money for a congressional race, Long picked up more contributions than Souder. Overall, counting 1993 and 1994, she's ahead of him. And as of Sept. 30, she had more money in the bank than Souder. As Forrest Gump's mother might say, perception is as perception does."

Kevin Leininger, *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* - "When police find a bullet-riddled corpse lying in the middle of Hanna Street at 5 a.m., it's hard to argue that the problems of urban America - particularly among young blacks - are as much a product of perception as they are of reality. Two weeks ago, I spent a few hours in Zion Lutheran Church's booth at the Pontiac Street Fair. The people I met were friendly, full of life, proud of their culture, businesses, food and families, and maybe a little worried about the future. A lot like you and me, in other words. Is that message getting out? 'You mean nobody bothered you down there?' an acquaintance asked the next day. What do you think?"

David L. Haase, *Indianapolis News* - So what does it take to get a presidential campaign off the ground? Did you guess anywhere near \$122,000? Former Vice President Dan Quayle spent that much last month as he launched a presidential exploratory committee and con-

verted his old Senate campaign committee into a PAC. The new PAC gave \$100,000 to the Dan Quayle Exploratory Committee. That committee won't have to file any reports until January, but you can bet the bucks will go for salaries (five on staff already) and for mail. Big name experts say that anybody who expects to be serious in 1996 will have to raise about \$20 million before the New Hampshire presidential primary. That's about \$1.3 million for the next 15 months. Quayle shelled out \$18,754 for computer stuff. Quayle spent \$1,727 for rent. We do know he didn't waste bucks on furniture though. Sure, he spent \$1,142.50. But he got it from Earl's Auction Co. I'll bet there are a few scratches and dents among those desks."

Morton Marcus, *syndicated* - "The economy of Indiana, to say nothing of our cultural heritage, is in danger. We have withstood serious challenges in the past, but a power, presumably of foreign origin, has corrupted two of our most esteemed institutions and threatens to deny ordinary Hoosiers their birthright. 'Big problems,' Southroat tells me. 'Seems a TV station blew the whistle, but it would have come out anyway. No one knows how to respond. The GOP caucus smells blood. Legislative hearings are a certainty.' What is it, I asked, feverishly? 'Basketball, IU at Purdue, Jan. 31, ESPN, exclusive.' No, I shriek. This is treason, a calamity of unrivaled proportions. Only the people with cable or satellite dishes will be able to watch. Have they forsaken the people, the taxpayers?"

Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star* - "The people I meet in politics are some of the nicest folks around. Until the last month before any election, when they undergo this incredible Jekyll and Hyde transformation into a pack of snarling dogs. The closer the election, the nastier. Not long ago, I saw Republican David McIntosh and Democrat Joe Hogsett greet each other at the start of a joint appearance on a cable TV show. They oozed good nature. Why, it had been just a joy to campaign against each other. Now they are locked in a death embrace with their teeth clenched in each other's throat. In short, they run these ads because they win elections. 'Positive spots absolutely are not working,' says national political analyst Charles Cook. 'Only the meanest, roughest, toughest negatives seem to be cutting this year. For incumbents, the only thing that seems to work is to completely demolish their opponent.'"

Humor
Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce
Politician, n. An eel in the fundamental mud upon which the superstructure of organized society is reared. When he wriggles he mistakes the agitation of his tail for the trembling of the edifice. As compared with the statesman, he suffers the disadvantage of being alive.

Musings and Meanderings

Is this heaven, Evan? No, but it might be in Iowa

Looking for ways to gauge the so-called "Republican wave?" Gov. Evan Bayh told *The New York Times'* Richard L. Berke in Sunday's editions that gubernatorial Democrats are facing such major struggles in large states that the Democratic Governors Association is emphasizing smaller states. Said Bayh, "We're leading in Alaska, we're leading in Nebraska and Arizona. It's very tight in Iowa." As for Kathleen Brown in California - the big prize - Bayh explained, "That could still happen."

☐ **COATS RECALLS 1980:** U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, campaigning for David McIntosh in Anderson, drew comparisons to this year and the 1980 campaign. "In 1980, the Democratic Party candidates tried to distance themselves from the then-President Jimmy Carter, but nothing like this year," said Coats (Ron Wilkins, *Anderson Herald-Bulletin*).

☐ **MCCARTY CARES:** State Sen. William McCarty, in a tough race against famed Anderson High School basketball coach Norm Held, told an NAACP forum last week, "It is hard work for anyone to stand up here and tell you about their opinions. But I will say that we care about you more than you think." (Susan Maxwell, *Anderson Herald-Bulletin*). Says State Sen. Robert Hellman, D-Terre Haute and head of the Democratic caucus, on why he thinks McCarty will prevail: "I've never met a coach in the listening business."

☐ **WORMAN TESTED:** State Sen. Richard Worman, R-Leo, is getting a fiesty challenge from Woodburn City Councilman Bruce Rosswurm. *HPR* hears Worman approached the state committee about some excess cash just to make sure. Hellman notes, "If Worman helps, we may win that one. There's still two weeks left."

☐ **BIG ITCH IN JOHNSON COUNTY:** Perennial Johnson County Democratic candidate Steve Bright showed up at a candidates forum outside of his district in Greenwood last week. It prompted this description from John Masson of the *Johnson County Daily Journal*: "Like a bad rash, Bright, who is running against incumbent Charles Canary, seems to really know how to get under Republican skin."

☐ **PASS THE BEANO:** The Allen County Republican bean dinner is an annual ritual that can have some disastrous gastronomical effects. Former legislator Mitch Harp provided packets of "Beano," which when ingested prior to bean consumption, negates potentially

damaging and embarrassing chemical imbalances.

☐ **ARIAS TO SPEAK IN FRANKLIN:** Former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3 at Franklin College's Lilly Campus Center.

☐ **ENDORSEMENTS:** *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* has endorsed Republican Mark Souder over U.S. Rep. Jill Long in the 4th CD.

☐ **MAY YOU BURN IN JEFFERSONIAN HELL....:** How's this for a little far right extremism, coming in a letter to the editor to the *Indianapolis News* from Rev. Max W. Lynch, pastor of the New Covenant Church in Terre Haute: "The Lord pronounced judgment on the evil liberal fascist Democratic Party when it nominated Bill Clinton. This is why he put Bill Clinton in the White House - to bury the Democratic Party once and for all."

☐ **SUMMIT CITY HOMICIDE RECORD:** Fort Wayne set a record homicide rate on Oct. 19 - the same week it celebrated its 200th birthday - when a woman was found shot to death on a city street. It was the 32nd homicide of the year. Police say the day before the murder, the woman lifted her 3-year-old son into her sister's home to steal a \$6,000 ring that was subsequently pawned for drug money.

☐ **CHEAP IN KOKOMO:** National Association of Home Builders says Kokomo is the most affordable city in the nation to buy a home.

☐ **"FIEND" OF BILL:** U.S. Rep. Dan Burton was thanking President Clinton for the current political climate in, of all places, Clinton County. "I remember two years ago when Bill Clinton got elected," Burton told the Clinton County GOP fall rally. "I thought this was the worst of times...but it's the best of times. He is the best thing that has happened to the Republican Party since 1928." (Matt Mora, *Frankfort Times*). Burton added, "Unless something terrible happens in the next 2 1/2 weeks, we're going to have, for the first time since 1954, a Republican majority in the House."

☐ **O'BANNON TALKS JOBS:** Democrats have been responsible for improved education, no deficit and an increase in jobs, Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon told Frankfort Democrats last week. "We've added 200,000 jobs in the state of Indiana. We have gotten to the point where the plants moved in, but we don't have enough skilled labor." (Jennifer Krimmel, *Frankfort Times*). "What we've seen in the voters is confusion and in the confusion is a negative message."

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Columbia City Post & Mail, Connorsville 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 Meanings

QA 9TH CD DEBATE WINNER? Republican Jean Leising declared herself the winner in a debate with U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton last week in New Albany. "Congressman Hamilton had a rather difficult time responding specifically to questions and went over the time limit on several occasions," Leising said, noting that Hamilton left the event immediately after the debate. But Hamilton told the *Connersville News-Examiner*, "I've never heard of a political candidate who didn't declare victory after a debate" (Eric Michael Cox, *Connersville News-Examiner*).

QLUGAR'S GOT CASH: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar had a \$1.5 million to \$56,982 edge over his Democratic opponent, Jim Jontz, in the cash-on-hand category as of Sept. 30. And a Thomson Newspaper poll showed Lugar with a 62-24 percent lead over Jontz.

QKINSER CONFLICT? WTHR's Bill Hussung aired a report last week on State Rep. Doug Kinser's role as a legislator and his consulting work on behalf of hospitals. Kinser is paid \$4,000 a month by Henry County Memorial Hospital to, in part, serve as a liaison with the Legislature which violates Indiana "common cause" language. "I'm not a lobbyist," Kinser told the *New Castle Courier-Times*. "I don't believe I have a conflict of interest." Said Kinser's opponent Brad Razor: "I'm just astonished."

QELECTORAL DIAPER RASH: At least one GOP targeted candidate - Joy LeCount - is embarrassed by a campaign stunt the House caucus has waged in five targeted districts: limousine service for diaper pickup. State Rep. Mike Young was unable to tell Larry McIntyre of the *Indianapolis Star* when such an incident occurred.

QMURDER CITY BILLBOARDS: Lodge 61 of the Fraternal Order of Police rented five billboards at five entrances to the city of Gary that read: "Caution!! You are

currently in Gary, Ind., 1993 MURDER Capital of the Nation. Where officers are EXTREMELY Underpaid and Overworked." Said Mayor Thomas V. Barnes, "The posting of these signs is nothing more than acts of terrorism that put apprehension and fear into the hearts of citizens and those outside who come to our city." Barnes noted that violent crime is down 35 percent from a year ago, when Gary registered 110 homicides among its 119,000 residents.

Q4TH CD LEGAL WARS: First, Jill Long's campaign complained that a disclaimer on a Mark Souder TV ad was too small. Then Allen County Republican chairman Steve Shine complained that a Whitley County sheriff deputy illegally appeared in a TV ad. Later, Souder acknowledged he had paid family taxes late due to a mailing mixup. Results: the disclaimer type size was enlarged; Souder paid his tax bills and straightened out his address; and a special prosecutor has selected to look into whether the Whitley County deputy violated state law.

QA SOCIALIST NUKE-SLINGER? In the 8th CD, a student at Castle HS asked Republican John Hostettler that if he favored the 2nd Amendment, did he think Americans should be able to own nuclear weapons? The bell rang as Hostettler made a gesture. Later, two teachers claimed that the gesture was a "yes." Hostettler's camp denies that was his intent. But they do contend that on economics, Democrat U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey is a socialist, as the Republican stated at an Evansville Rotary Club meeting. "John would say that again," said campaign spokesman Rob Ziegler, and added later, "John does not support citizens owning nuclear weapons."

QCLINTON HARMLESS? Mike Harmless on President Clinton coming to the Wabash Valley: "I haven't asked him to come. I'm running as Mike Harmless." (Caryn Shinska, *Brazil Times*).

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