

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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Hoosier Democrats facing the future

Think tank, Young Democrats marking revival

INDIANAPOLIS - At first glance, there are ominous signs for Indiana Democrats in the context of 1996.

President Clinton's popularity in Indiana has never been high and there are concerns that he might represent a drag on the state ticket and, particularly, Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon's hopes to succeed Evan Bayh as governor. In the last four years, Democrats have lost four Congressional seats and another three are potentially vulnerable. Democrats have little chance to take over the Indiana Senate.

And, for the first time since World War II, more voters under the age of 25 identify themselves as Republicans. Younger voters seem to be equating financial success with the Grand Old Party, and find it more socially acceptable among their peers to call themselves Republicans.

Hoosier Democrats have been aggressively seeking to address those concerns. In the past month, the Indiana Young Democrats have been reformed. The Indiana Mayor's Coordinated Campaign Conference, led by South Bend Mayor Joe Kernan and Greencastle Mayor Michael Harmless, has formed and has been active to support the 1995 local tickets. And the Sycamore Institute has been formed, creating a "bookend" to the conservative Indiana Policy Review Foundation that has supplied cutting edge Republicans with some of the most controversial public policy issues.

In all of these initiatives, Indiana Democrats have reached out to young, up and coming members of the party, such as 1994 state ticket nominees Allison Wharry and Tim Jeffers. There are young party members with familiar names such as Mark Phillips, son of former House Speaker Michael K. Phillips, and Jordan Lebamoff, son of former Fort Wayne Mayor Ivan Lebamoff.

"We want to play a vital role," said Lebamoff, a Fort Wayne attorney.

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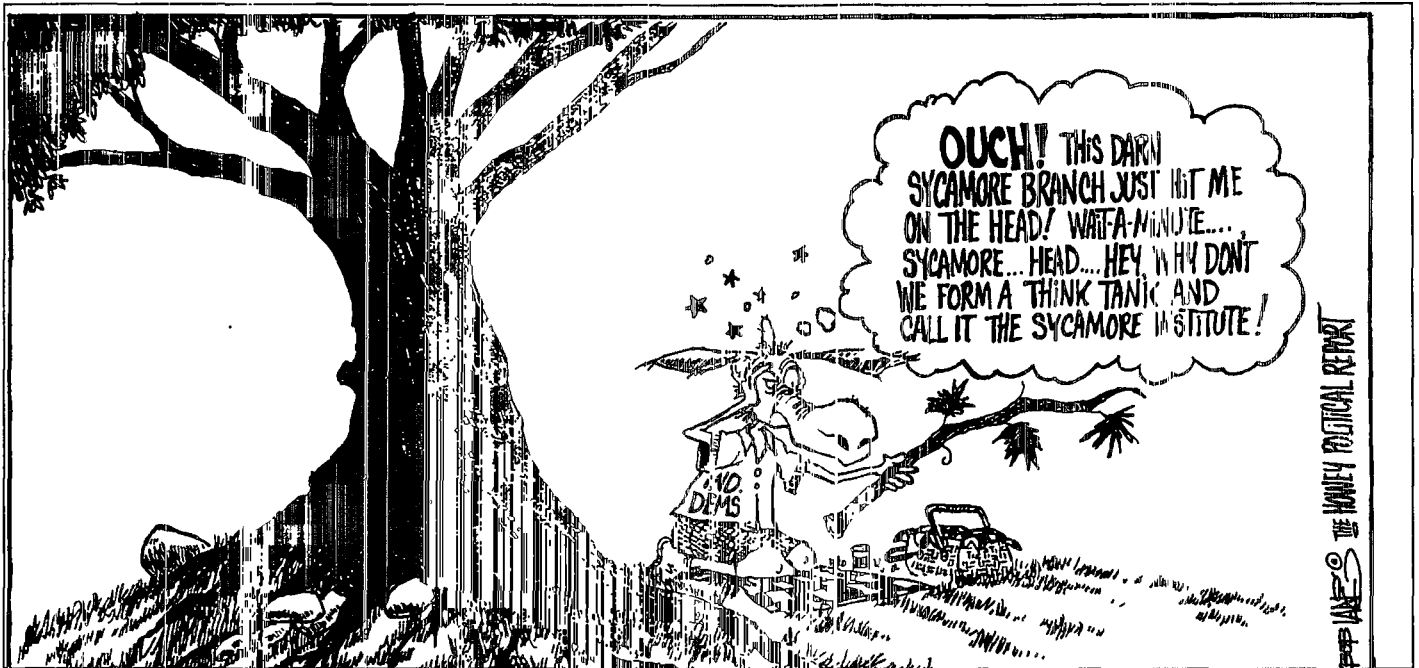
"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"The debate has been one-sided and the public has not been well-served...."

- Brian Williams, on Democrats and the formation of the Sycamore Institute

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HUMOR

M I L L

Wendellisms by Wendell Trogdon Indianapolis News

The West Baden Springs Hotel is for sale. The owners gambled on a casino and lost.

O.J. Simpson wants to thank the prosecution for working hand-in-glove with his defense team.

Batman Forever. Or at least as long as he makes money.



Next HPR Edition published on July 6
Due to HPR's switch of computer equipment and the moving of its operations from Fort Wayne to Indianapolis, the next edition of HPR will be published on July 6.

Democratic revival underway at state level

from page 1

ney. "It's the sign of a maturing party. Naturally we can be there to assist the districts and the manning of the electoral process."

But, Lebamoff said, he challenged State Chairman Joe Andrew to make use of Young Democrats as a base for recruiting future office holders. "We don't want to be there just to put out yard signs and lick envelopes," he said. "We'll do that, but the expertise is there to do far more."

Wharry, elected president of the YDs, told Democrats at the annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner that she and Jeffers had noticed a lack of younger people in communities they visited during their 1994 statewide campaigns. The two joked during the campaign that they would work to revive the Young Democrats. But it was no joke on Election Night when the ticket was swamped by the Republican tidal wave.

Attorney General Pamela Carter gave Democrats an emotional and inspiring address, saying she feared that many traditional Democrats would seek out candidacies like that of 1992 presidential contender Ross Perot.

Last January, Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew said the party would make the 1995 mayoral elections a priority. Under the guidance

of Greencastle Mayor Michael Harmless and South Bend Mayor Joe Kernan, the Indiana Democratic Mayors' Association has been reactivated.

"Local parties are strong when local candidates win," Andrew said. "I think that I've spent more time on the road than any state chair before me due to my belief that our focus must be on rebuilding at the local level.

The idea is "develop the whole candidate," Harmless said.

"The mission is to impart mayoral candidates with insight into problem solving and leadership development," Harmless told HPR. "Our cities must operate like well-run businesses, and many candidates who win are often unprepared when they take office."

That program includes incumbent Indiana mayors "adopting" first-time candidates to help guide them through the electoral process.

While Indiana Democrats control of majority a mayoralships, a real concern for the party is its congressional delegation. Three seats are potentially vulnerable - Lee Hamilton in the 9th CD, Tim Roemer in the 3rd CD and the 10th CD if Andy Jacobs decides to retire.

HPR believes that while a Hamilton-Jean Leising rematch will be competitive, the GOP's

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Early opens campaign with talk of cuts, chains

FORT WAYNE - Let's call it the "25+25 = chains" political solution.

Those are the cornerstone element to Rexford Early's burgeoning gubernatorial campaign that set a three-day course to a multitude of Hoosier cities.

Early is calling for Indiana government to be cut by 25 percent, \$25 license plates, and a get-tough attitude on crime - even to the point of instituting the Alabama-style chain gangs.

Then there are the "three Nos:" no gangs, guns or drugs in schools.

On the numericals, Early estimates that the auto excise tax cuts would cut revenue by \$100 million and the abolition of the inventory tax would be in the \$200 million range. The unquantified figure is how much more would it cost to lock up predatory criminals for their entire sentences instead of the current 50 percent off for good behavior? How does Indiana fare without that estimated \$300 million in revenue?

"I'm going to look at every program," Early said, also noting that Indiana has a \$1.5 billion surplus. "We can't afford not to do them."

As far as criticism over the chain gang concept, Early insisted they aren't demeaning. "I cut weeds on the highway after I was married so it can't be too demeaning. I'm running for governor."

Early drew big crowds in Vincennes, Indianapolis and Terre Haute. He was accompanied in Fort Wayne by Vigo County Chairman Jim Bopp and Allen County Sheriff Joe Squadrito.

His most ironic quote came on cracking down on school crime. "I'm not going to spend all of our blood sugar on the 15 percent who cause trouble at the expense of the other 85 percent." Early used the "burning my blood sugar" quote in castigating Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke in 1993 for his support of the Clinton stimulus package.

HORSE R A C E

Early had endorsed Helmke for mayor earlier this spring, but Helmke wasn't at Early's Fort Wayne stop.

WANE-TV's Steve Rogge asked Early if he was stung by former GOP Chairman Al Hubbard's apparent endorsement of Mayor Steve Goldsmith.

"Was this the same Al Hubbard who didn't know a member of the state committee and asked me to introduce him? Early asked, adding, "Yeah, it stings a little bit."

■ **GUBERNATORIAL NOTES:** Goldsmith's support of Eric Miller's call for the ban of R-rated movie rentals in the Marion County library system appears to be a shrewd maneuver to court the religious right. While Miller is making that protest due to content, Goldsmith approached it in the privatization vein, noting that movie rentals is not a proper function of government in the first place.

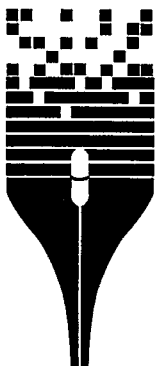
TICKER T A P E

HPR continues to hear of talk in the Indianapolis City-County Building that has **Mayor Stephen Goldsmith** pondering a withdrawal from the mayoral race to concentrate on the 1996 gubernatorial race. The fear is that by starting on '96 after this year's election will allow **Rex Early** and **Pat Rooney** too much time to sew up support outside the Indy ADI, where Goldsmith's numbers fall over a cliff.

Is former **U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey** going to seek a rematch in the 8th CD against **U.S. Rep. John Hostettler**? McCloskey told HPR on Tuesday, "Any plans I have to re-enter public life in 1996 are exceedingly dormant. As far as the 8th District is concerned, I'm not moving in that direction." Reports are surfacing that McCloskey is not enamored by former aide **Jonathan Weinzapfel's** comments that the congressman didn't run a good race in 1994. Said McCloskey, "I've said to friends like **Rick McConnell** and **Rick Borries** that they've got to get out and get visible." McConnell is a state representative and Borries is a Vanderburgh County commissioner.

U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer "railed" against the Republicans' "Contract with America" at a public meeting in Michigan City last week. "I'd love to be able to walk up to each person in this room, look them in the eye and say, 'Each of you can have a \$50 tax cut,'" Roemer said (**Dan Rosenberg, News-Dispatch**). "But how in the world can we be proposing tax cuts when we're \$4.8 trillion in debt."

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TICKER T A P E

Gubernatorial candidate **Pat Rooney** is the target of a \$417 million lawsuit by **Guy E. McGaughey**, 71, who claims he was abruptly dismissed amidst a legal services contract with Rooney's firm, Golden Rule Insurance. A Golden Rule spokeswoman told the *Indianapolis News* that she believes the suit is "without merit."

The *Bloomington Herald-Times* reports an upsurge in the manufacture and use of the drug methcathinone, a homemade illegal drug also known as "cat." Said **Todd Scrimitt**, a Bloomington Police drug investigator, "It's pretty much all we are dealing with right now. It's a major problem."

As you can imagine, the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling against affirmative action was not well received by Hoosier civil rights leaders. **Bobby Ogburn**, founding director of the Evansville Black Coalition, told the *Evansville Courier* that the ruling reflects a national mood shift on race relations. "An attitude in America has been changing for a number of years reverting back to what it was in the '40s and '50s," Ogburn said. But, he added, "With most of the employers we work with, I think immediately it will have little or no impact. I think those employers will continue to function in that capacity because it's the right thing to do."

Vigo County **Chairman Jim Bluff** on whether **U.S. Rep. John Myers** will seek re-election: "I find it almost

Lugar's presidential campaign is mostly Hoosier and a very decentralized unit

KEENE, N.H. - The command structure of U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar's presidential campaign reads like the Hoosier Republican "Dream Team" of politics.

It is accented by several of the savviest pros in Iowa and New Hampshire. It is a decentralized organization lacking any notion of a pyramid. Its greatest asset is the senator himself, who doesn't need handlers to spin his message.

"That's the best thing of all," said Mark Lubbers, the campaign manager from Indianapolis. "I don't have to have someone trailing him and updating him on the issues. I can put those people to better use elsewhere."

Lugar draws information from numerous sources in the campaign and his Senate office. There are distinct lines drawn between the two. Lubbers is the No. 1 guy, but he gives his people in the field great latitude on decisions.

A group of six long-time associates form Lugar's inner circle. In addition to Lubbers, they include communications director Mark Helmke, who had formerly served as his Senate office press secretary; Marty Morris, the Senate office chief-of-staff with a reputation as being a behind-the-scenes master strategist; Mitch Daniels, the Lilly executive who served as political director in the Reagan White House; former Senate office chief-of-staff Jeff Bergner; and Bill Ruckleshaus, the 1968 GOP Senate nominee who later headed the EPA and was fired during President Nixon's "Saturday Night Massacre" during the Watergate crisis.

A newcomer to that list is Van Smith of Muncie, a former chairman of the board of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, who will be named finance director later this week. Terry Holt, who helped former U.S. Rep. John Hiler develop sophisticated "voter contact" methods, set up Lugar's New Hampshire operation and has since moved to the Washington headquarters to become the campaign spokesman. Holt directed George Nethercutt's historic upset of House Speaker Tom Foley in 1994.

On agriculture issues, Lugar relies on his Senate office staff director Chuck Connor. On

foreign policy, he has two top rated Senate staffers in Ken Myers and Andy Semmel.

In the key early states, Lugar will rely on Richard Schwarm, who had served as Iowa Republican chairman, Dick Fisher, a key confidant to Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, along with Mike Day and Jeannette Schmett, two successful political consultants. In New Hampshire, the campaign is headed up by James McKay, a practitioner of Holt's "voter contact" methodology, which will be vital if the campaign hopes to make inroads past the 4,000 "activists" who have already latched on to the campaigns of Bob Dole and Phil Gramm.

Lugar relies on two trusted aides when traveling. Former state director Kevin Shaw Kellems is the chief campaign scheduler operating out of the Indianapolis office. Kellems usually travels with the senator in Iowa. The second is Cameron Carter, on loan to the campaign from the Fort Wayne-based Asher Agency, who has been traveling with Lugar in New Hampshire.

The *Boston Globe* recently profiled President Clinton's coming re-election campaign as a centralized effort based on Reagan's 1984 model that was commanded by White House aides James Baker and Michael Deaver. Clinton felt that George Bush and Jimmy Carter failed to draw "clean lines" between the re-election campaigns and the White House staff.

The Lugar campaign, in contrast, is decentralized. It is not a meeting oriented group. Campaign staffers each have a digital pager and that is the primary method of communications. They can leave phone numbers or detailed messages via that system. All the key players communicate regularly through the Internet.

"We all know each other well," Holt said. "If you need to be told what to do, then you really need to go to another campaign."

■ **LUGAR NOTE:** The campaign has passed the \$2.5 million mark in fund-raising.

LUGAR WATCH

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Morton Marcus, *syndicated* - Indiana is entering the 1996 gubernatorial elections earlier than expected. Too soon, Democrats will cite all sorts of numbers and parade all manner of anecdotal evidence to demonstrate the spectacular advances of the state's economy during their watch. Republicans will find other data, other stories, to depict the horrors from which they alone can save the oppressed citizens of our beleaguered state. Both can tell the truth about our complex state. Researchers for Democrats will find favorable economic statistics easily. When Evan Bayh won election, Indiana had 2,453,000 jobs. By the close of 1994, 328,900 jobs had been added. Republican analysts will cite other facts. The best available numbers reveal some disturbing signs. The number of Indiana farm proprietors fell by nearly 11,000 from 1988 to 1993. Republicans will counter that, while Indiana has been creating jobs, we have an unsatisfactory record of creating income from those jobs. Adjusted for inflation, real earnings per job in Indiana grew by less than 1 percent while nationally the average job was worth 1.6 percent more in 1993 than in 1988. In either case, enjoy our political season. Elections are a distinctive form of American recreation and entertainment.

Kurt Van der Dussen, *Bloomington Herald-Times* - As the whole world knows by now because it's such an important issue, Indiana University has been fined \$30,000 for Bob Knight's press conference tirade during last spring's NCAA basketball tournament. And as everybody in Bloomington knows, the Coach has taken offense and suggested that those without sin should cast the first reprimand. Knight is missing the point. No, that's charitable. He's much too intelligent to do that. He's changing the subject. The issue is Knight's boorish televised conduct that day - conduct totally unjustified even by the mistaken report to the media that Knight wasn't going to talk with them. In short, he takes both himself and what he has to say too seriously. Just once, Bob, try admitting you were wrong and take responsibility for it

Michael Gantner, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - Let's see now... The Republicans are distressed by all those single women having babies. By all those abortions being performed. By all those classrooms without prayer. By all those dirty movies and violent songs. Yet, if they and their contractors in the Christian Coalition are worried about family values, shouldn't they put divorce at the top of that list? How come Republicans aren't talking about that? How come that's not in the Contract With America? Could it be that Republicans aren't talking about the moral decay caused by divorce because the leading Republican politicians are divorced? Could that be it? Bob Dole and Phil Gramm and almost-candidate Newt Gingrich are divorced. Candidate Pete Wilson is too. Those Republican moralists have a bit of a problem: ex-wives. That's why they're not talking about divorce.

Dick Cady, *Indianapolis Star* - Picture this: Rexford Early, the former state Republican chairman, is walking along the lawn of the governor's residence. He is a short, Falstaffian figure whose paunch arrives before he does. He is wearing bib overalls. He is pushing a lawn mower. He is smiling. Rex Early is smiling because as the cars drive along Meridian Street, some of the motorists honk and yell, "Hi governor." Some even yell, "Hi Rex." As he waves his hand, he is thinking, "Life is sure good." You have just shared a nightmare vision that has jarred some of Indiana's Republican blueboods awake in the middle of the night. The man is, well, common.

Dick Robinson, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* - Indiana's legislature was ranked 28th (by the 1995 Development Report Card for the States), which is in the bottom half of all states. It is difficult to say what the grade means. If it is based on the body's influence on business activity, the 1995 legislature should get high marks when new grades come out. There is always next year, but Hoosiers have said that for too long.

TICKER TAPE

inconceivable that he wouldn't run." Bopp said the only reason Myers wouldn't run is if his wife had a recurrence of cancer. Bopp also believes that Myers will not face a primary challenge like he did in 1994. As for Democrat Michael Harmless seeking a rematch, Bopp said, "How is he going to go back to the same people and raise money?"

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh was featured on the Wednesday edition of *CBS Evening News with Dan Rather* for uncovering "one of the best kept secrets in Washington." And the secret? The fact that in 1990, the federal government distributed \$39 billion in grants to more than 100,000 special interest groups. McIntosh said that many of those groups used the money to lobby Congress. "It's a vicious cycle, it's a taxpayer abuse and it's an outrage," McIntosh said. McIntosh said he has found a "clear correlation" between groups that lobbied against the House Republican's regulatory reforms and those same groups that received federal grants from the EPA.

Fort Wayne **Mayor Paul Helmke** was selected to the number three leadership position in the U.S. Conference of Mayors at their annual meeting in Miami. Any thought that Helmke may be in for a tough re-election fight this fall is rapidly diminishing. Democrat nominee **Thomas Essex** has been almost invisible both prior to and after the primary. Meanwhile the Helmke administration is spreading asphalt over the city's worst roads, thanks to a CEDIT tax passed two years ago.

Attorney General Carter sees Sycamore Institute probing change in dramatic times

HPR **Interview**

“We want to make sure our contribution is not only in politics and in government, but in the world of ideas. It’s essential....”

- Pam Carter

“When you look at the tremendous turbulence and volatility going on, it’s important to have professionals looking at the issues and becoming a part of the public discourse....”

- Pam Carter

Last August at the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association, Attorney General Pam Carter sat and listened as U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton chastised his fellow Democrats for abandoning President Clinton and not sticking up for the party.

At one point, Hamilton surveyed the diminished numbers at the convention. “When I go into a Democratic meeting, why don’t I get a sense of enthusiasm about the party?” he said. “Pam Carter’s here; why is that, Pam? You can answer that when you get up here in a few minutes.”

Earlier this month, Carter was one of eight Democrats who joined in the formation of the Sycamore Institute, which has become one of the few state-based Democratic think-tanks in the nation.

HPR sat down with Carter in her State-house office to get the background on the new institute and her answer to Hamilton’s poignant question:

HPR: Tell me about your involvement with the Sycamore Institute and your visions for it?

Carter: You can never have too many ideas. I think ideas are better identified, formulated and articulated if it’s done in an organized fashion. Because then there’s a focus and a strategic level of priorities. This is a real transforming time in our history in this country, so what better time to make sure we better understand what these transformations might mean to Americans, but more importantly for Hoosiers. The idea behind Sycamore is to look at the state of Indiana and what is best for the state of Indiana. When you look at the tremendous turbulence and volatility going on, it’s important to have professionals looking at the issues and becoming a part of the public discourse.

HPR: I have long felt that the Indiana Policy Review Foundation needed a “bookend,” given the fact that many of Mayor Goldsmith’s initiatives and the whole prevailing wage issue started there. Your thoughts?

Carter: It might have the effect of being a bookend. The point was, we can’t have enough good ideas. I was looking at it in conjunction with talking with a lot of other people about what the future of the state of Indiana is going to be and how do we determine that? What are the forces that are present now? How are those forces going to influence the future? Quite frankly, whatever those forces are, behind them will be ideas. We need to understand the environment and culture of this state. There is a tremendous commitment to this state; this is a good state. And we want to make sure our contribution is not only in politics and in government, but in the world of ideas. It’s essential.

HPR: We often have seen the kind of differences in the political parties here as compared to the past. Would you like to see a more distinct difference between the two parties? Or do you think that is an erroneous perception to begin with?

Carter: If we look at it as Democrats, in the context of new ideas, because there is a lot of change in this environment, I think we really need to understand what that means. I don’t want to be shackled by any prior ideas unless they suggest they can be helpful to Indiana in the future.

HPR: A criticism of the Indiana General Assembly is that much major legislation is not grounded in good research and thus isn’t good public policy. Is that fair?

Carter: It will certainly be helpful and positive. There will be great numbers of approaches and counter approaches that can be publicly discussed. It will be a tremendous advantage to our officeholders because they can tap in if they so choose. There will be additional founts of information. And just in terms of the initial response, it’s filling a vacuum.

HPR: When we were growing up, there were distinct differences between liberalism and conservatism. Times have changed from the Vietnam/Watergate era. Those terms have

changed. The Indiana Democratic Party has become fairly conservative. Does liberalism need to be redefined since it has had such a long tradition within the Democratic Party? And will Sycamore attempt to redefine liberalism? Or do we need to move away from labels altogether?

Carter: We need to move away from labels. First of all, they are always inaccurate and misleading. It never encompasses the range of ideas and philosophies that might be under one big tent of x-party. As I mentioned before, this is a different time. We are approaching the end of a millenium. We are also at the end of a type of era, the industrial era and we are heading into the information age. It will take a lot of time and thought to begin to grasp what that all means. And where do we want to move? Do we want Indiana to become a giant in economic development? Then how do we get from here to where we want to be?

HPR: Do you see yourself becoming more involved in articulating a vision for the Democratic Party?

Carter: I think it would absolutely impossible to be more involved. I articulate a lot of issues on how we should be much more firm on, for example, crime. How we can be more protective of the victims of crime. I define my role as attorney general by articulating what an attorney general should be. I don't think we can ever be soft on crime. It erodes the social fabric. The punishment needs to be swift and sure.

HPR: In the past legislative session, there was a push for truth in sentencing. The problem was that no one took into account the price tag and the safety of prison guards. Were they on the right track?

Carter: The citizens have clearly articulated the fact that they are very fearful, whether they are in their homes, on the streets, in the school yards and in the workplace. I think it's absolutely essential that the criminal justice system responds to that fear in a way that reforms the system so that it responds in a very decisive way to those who are the most harmful and predatory. We need to prioritize to the levels of crime. I don't think we should take anything but a very hard line and a consistently hard line until we have lessened this problem to everyone's satisfaction.

HPR: Chief Justice Shepard listed a frightening array of statistics in his State of the Judiciary speech last winter. Is our society turning the corner? And how can you tell?

Carter: That's a very good question for two reasons. If you look at statistics in a raw context, the law enforcement community has done a good job of maintaining certain levels of violent crime from increasing, with the exception of rape. But, on the other hand, the fear is much greater. The fear of crime has a multitude of origins, primarily now because it is so random. Crime is being committed by juveniles who are more violent and have more impulses. Our system did not anticipate that area well at all. That may be an example of where the institute will be very helpful. Maybe in the '80s, for example, we could have said, "Do you realize there are a number of crimes increasing by this age group? And do you realize the laws we presently have are not capable of addressing those issues? That would be a great idea for our institute to address because there is a need for a comprehensive look at juvenile justice. If it is done in a credible manner, it will not only resonate here in Indiana, but beyond our borders.

HPR: Will you seek re-election in 1996?

Carter: Right now we are in an evaluation stage. I think it's important for anybody in public life these days not to take anything for granted. I really have to have a good sense of the political environment, the public policy environment, what's going to be happening this year and next. So I have time and I'm going to take it to make sure whatever decision I make is well-thought out.

HPR: Is there a chance you might not seek re-election? Because if you didn't, that would be a big surprise.

Carter: At this point the honest answer is that I'm looking at every option. I'm going to look very carefully at what's going on.

HPR: Would you be interested in higher office: lieutenant governor? A congressional seat?

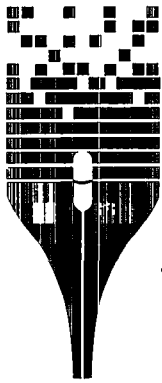
Carter: Again, everything I'm looking at is on the table. I am just trying to understand all the factors. Then I really intend to evaluate and look for the rest of this year before I make any decisions.

TICKER T A P E

State Sen. Joe Zakas is coming closer to getting into the 3rd CD race against **U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer**. The biggest stumbling block was a falling out Zakas had with St. Joseph County GOP Chairman Carl Baxmeyer. "We've sat down and have that resolved," Zakas said. "He has encouraged me to run." Look for a formal Zakas decision later this summer. While many national observers see Roemer as safe in 1996, he has not had a credible challenger since he upset **John Hiler** in 1990. Traditionally, Republican candidates in the 3rd CD run stronger in a presidential year. Other possible GOP challengers include attorney **Theodore Knoll**, Michigan City Chamber of Commerce Chairman **Brad Allamong**, stockbroker **Dan Holtz**, and **Gary Benedix**.

Fourth Congressional District Democrats aren't floating many names around as a possible challenger to **U.S. Rep. Mark Souder**. Key Democratic sources tell HPR that former **U.S. Rep. Jill Long** is seriously looking at a run for lieutenant governor.

Former *Elkhart Truth* columnist and gadfly **Joe Saint** has emerged from the Mexican desert after an unsuccessful search for the remains of Hoosier author and cynic **Ambrose Bierce**. Saint left on his expedition in 1990 and tells HPR he intends to return to Northern Indiana for the express purpose of helping the **Digger Phelps** presidential campaign in 2004. "I think a Phelps-Garcia ticket would be unbeatable," Saint said. "I know Digger has a lot of energy and Jerry is ready for a new challenge."



"One of the best"

"The Howey Political Report is one of the best state political newsletters in the country. Brian's 1994 election analyses were consistently on target. I can't imagine why anyone really interested in Indiana politics wouldn't subscribe to the Howey Political Report..."

- Charles E. Cook

Cook Political Report, Washington

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'Sycamore will invigorate the public debate'

from page 2

real opportunity to pick up that seat occurred in 1994. Hamilton is expected to seek re-election and he is preparing to establish an organization to match the circumstances.

Roemer hasn't had a credible challenger since he upset John Hiler in 1990, but may well get one if State Sen. Joe Zakas enters the race.

Jacobs' seat is considered vulnerable, particularly if former Indianapolis Mayor Bill Hudnut seeks to recapture the seat he held for one term 20 years ago.

The best bet for Democrats to pick up a seat may be in the 8th CD, where U.S. Rep. John Hostettler has had problems in his district office and has cast several controversial votes on term limits and the balanced budget amendment.

The revival of the Young Democrats, a party reinvigorated at the local level, and a reawakened organized labor movement following the prevailing wage showdown in the Indiana General Assembly are all potential boosters that can help offset a national trend and President Clinton's lack of popularity here.

But the key development may be the Sycamore Institute.

"Within a year or two, the Sycamore Institute will help invigorate the public debate," said Brian Williams, the former executive director of the Indiana Democratic Party and a new SI board member.

"We intend to focus our attention and our resources on public policy rather than sound-bites."

Williams acknowledges that progressive Indiana Republicans "have been well-served by the Indiana Policy Review.

"They reflect that philosophy, just as the Sycamore Institute will reflect the thoughts of individuals in the Democratic Party," Williams continued. "The debate has been one-sided and the public has not been well-served."

While Attorney General Pamela Carter has told HPR she would like to see the new institute focus on crime and juvenile issues (See HPR Interview on pages 6 and 7), Williams said that the fledgling institute's table is currently full of potential research topics.

"The early thoughts have been about

crime, health care, welfare and education," he said. "The challenge will be to cull them down to three or four. It's premature to say what the first issues will be."

Both Carter and Williams talk about the Sycamore Institute "filling a vacuum." That has manifested itself in a steady stream of resumes and offers of financial support.

"Since the initial few stories, we've received five or six resumes, all from qualified academics - people with either PhDs or they are pursuing them," said Williams.

The challenge for the institute will be to find a research director who might be able to intellectually spar with the Harvard-educated Styring, who has developed a reputation among both Republicans and Democrats as being fair, accurate, and often provocative.

Sycamore could also provide a worthy forum for another board member, former Democratic Chairwoman Ann DeLaney.

Mike Pence, who served as president of the Indiana Policy Review Foundation prior to launching a radio talk show on Network Indiana, believes that DeLaney might find her role in the institute almost a liberating experience.

"For years Ann had to respond to the issues with the straight party line," Pence observed earlier this week. "Now she has the opportunity to approach the issues in a different manner. I think she's going to find that to be challenging and rewarding."

How will all these developments impact the Democratic Party?

Labor, young people and the mayoral initiative have the potential to boost the party around the margins in both 1995 and 1996.

The Sycamore Institute will take longer to develop.

Its first challenge may very well be to help Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon and progressive Democratic legislative candidates come up with contrasting issues and positions in 1996.

The race for governor and control of the Indiana House carries fundamental implications for the near-term future of the Indiana Democratic Party.