

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“This is not about buying Chicago TV time. It’s about distortion”

—Lt. Gov. Frank O’Bannon, angrily responding to the first negative ad of the fall campaign.

The Gingrich card is drawn in Indiana

“She turned me into a Newt” is GOP lament

INDIANAPOLIS - Two years ago this week, Mark Souder, John Hostettler and David McIntosh gathered on the steps of the Capitol with Newt Gingrich to unveil the Contract With America.

It was that public policy engine that drove the upset victories of the three Hoosier Republicans in 1994 and catapulted Speaker Gingrich to a hero’s welcome in Indianapolis less than a year later.

But the Gingrich element in Indiana politics has come full circle. As Republicans did with Bill Clinton in 1994, Democrats are doing with Gingrich this month. He has become a human blunt instrument to bash Republican candidates.

Tenth CD candidate Julia Carson revealed the Gingrich card this past week, mentioning the Speaker seven times in a debate with Virginia Blankenbaker. When she announced her candidacy last winter, Carson said, “This is the 10th District and as far as I can tell, Newt Gingrich won’t be a candidate for Congress here.”

“However, since then Newt Gingrich has brought himself into the 10th District to support my opponent,” Carson said Tuesday. “Perhaps it would have been better for my opponent had he not come. It reinforces the fact that my opponent would be following his lack of leadership in the United States Congress. That’s why we will underscore the kinds of things Gingrich has done and the fact that the Contract With American has become the Contract On America.”

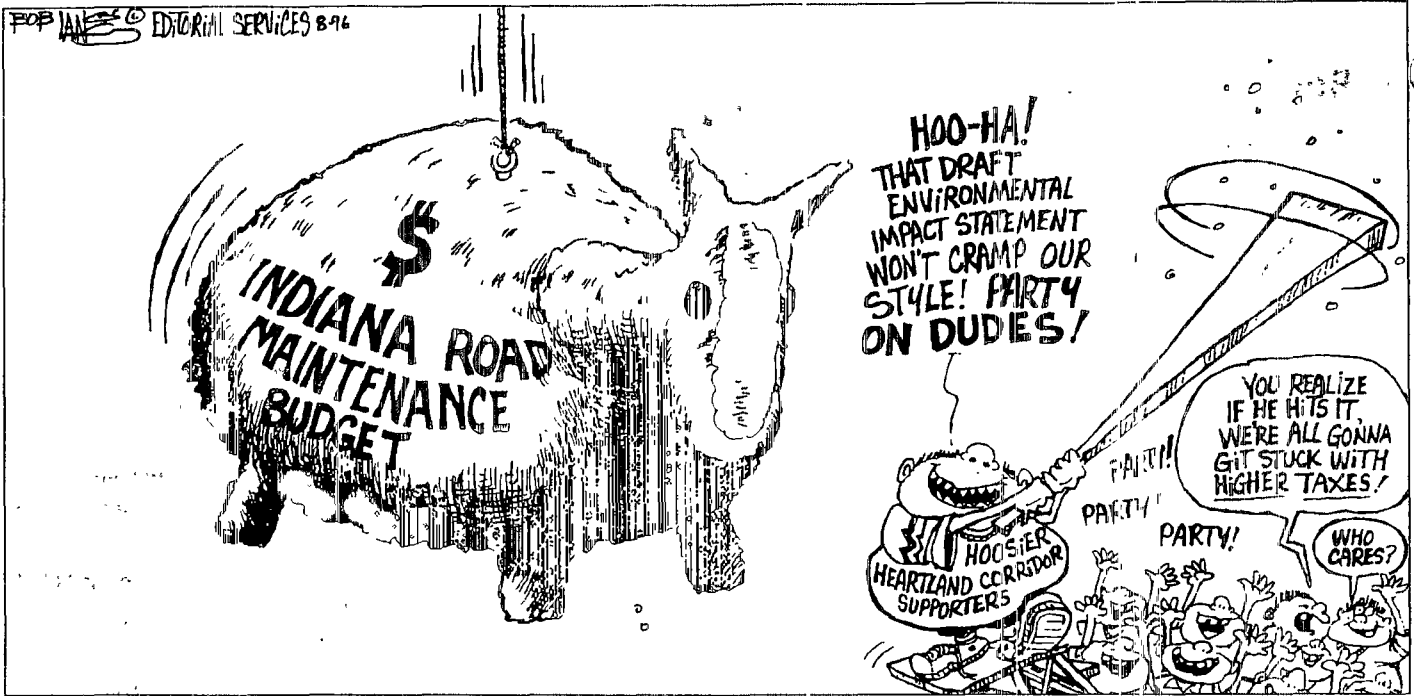
In 1994, U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton was telling his fellow Democrats that he felt as if a curtain had been drawn between him and his 9th CD audiences. Hamilton almost lost in an environment of anti-incumbency and anti-gridlock. But those words are missing from this campaign’s lexicon. Gingrich, Hamilton said, has become radioactive in Indiana.

“The first vote Julia Carson casts will be for Speaker,” Hamilton said, echoing a line 7th CD candidate **Bob Hellman** used last week in a Terre Haute debate with Ed Pease. “The speaker is a

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TICKER T A P E

PLAY OF THE WEEK: The Joe Kernan-George Witwer debate was entertaining, interesting and valuable. While most of the prevailing pundits gave Kernan the edge for his velvet hammer approach on the Mini-Thin issue, we're not convinced that will be the decisive issue come November. And Witwer beat expectations. So HPR and the South Bend Tribune's Jack Colwell called this debate a tossup.

Get ready for a really big debate: Mario Cuomo v. Dan Quayle. That's what the Tri-County Forum Series will present beginning at 10:45 a.m. Friday Sept. 27 at the Westin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. The debate was

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Witwer's strength with the Republican base could be more important that Goldsmith imagined

INDIANAPOLIS - A funny thing happened to George Witwer on the way to the election.

His shocking nomination victory last June at the Republican convention was based on comprehensive networking within the Christian right of the party. But his victory was sneered at by many members of the news media and Witwer's relevance to the Goldsmith gubernatorial campaign seemed peripheral during the summer months.

When HPR caught up with the ever-hustling Goldsmith after the Realtors endorsed him in mid-August, he was asked about Witwer.

"I haven't seen him lately," Goldsmith said, a remark that tended to confirm the mayor's style of flying solo while acting as his own best advisor. Actually, Goldsmith said, he and Witwer ended up tracking down the same targeted donor an hour apart from each other in Fort Wayne the prior evening, suggesting that the Goldsmith-Witwer ticket was less than well-coordinated.

In those dog days, the Goldsmith camp seemed to feel confident with a lead many placed around 9 percent over Frank O'Bannon. But Wednesday's Star/News-WTHR poll conducted by IU's Brian Vargus gives O'Bannon a

36-33 percent lead, bringing concern (Democrats say panic). So much so that the Republican nominee has purchased Chicago TV market time - unheard of in September for a Hoosier politician.

The historical dilemma for Goldsmith is that he is not good at getting his base to the polls. Rex Early complained bitterly during the primary campaign that Goldsmith failed to carry Marion County when he ran as LG in 1988. Democrats point out that Goldsmith's vote totals have declined steadily since he debuted as a candidate. And in 1995, Goldsmith managed only a 58 percent vote total against a feeble opponent in a low-turnout election despite a heavy TV buy.

Trailing in the polls in mid-September is foreign turf for Goldsmith. With Bob Dole wilting under a 20-point Clinton lead, the potential is there not only for a Democratic tsunami (See HPR's Sept. 4 edition) but the psychological dilemma of the GOP base staying home.

Which is where having Witwer on the ticket could be the element that keeps this race close. Witwer plays well to the GOP right base. Wouldn't it be shocking, if Goldsmith ekes out a razor-thin win, that Witwer might be the copilot that pulled them out of the tailspin?

Redheads for O'Bannon bumpersticker amuses the HPR stable beasts

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: We're detecting some interesting bumper stickers around the Circle City, like "Redheads for O'Bannon." And how about this one: "Dole-Goldsmith?" You don't suppose Rex Early had anything to do ... nahhhh. Sounds like a Democratic plot to us.

PRESIDENT

Bill Clinton, D Bob Dole, Rep Ralph Nader, I Ross Perot, Ref	Likely D	Vargus poll showing Clinton up 38-32 percent is historically stunning, but HR saw it coming with convention and Northwest Indiana whistlestop. This signals a nationwide landslide that has the potential to swamp downticket races. Dole's poke at family leave a big "duh" with female voters.
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GOVERNOR

Stephen Goldsmith, R Frank O'Bannon, D Steve Dillon, L	TOSSUP	O'Bannon's 36-33 percent lead in Vargus poll confirms HPR's suspicions that the GOP squandered a lead by letting the Democrats take to the air unchallenged. That Goldsmith is buying Chicago TV time this early suggests mild panic. Kernan calling privatization the "P-word." Dems say that issue runs 25 percent <i>below</i> Goldsmith
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10TH CD

Virginia Blankenbaker, R Julia Carson, D	Tossup	Latest Vargus numbers showing this race a dead heat makes more sense to Horse Race. This race will be a barnburner now, in October and right up until 6 p.m. Nov. 5.
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43RD INDIANA HOUSE

John Kimmel, R Clyde Kersey, D	LEANS D	We gave Kimmel a fighting chance to retain this surprise '94 gain for the GOP because he has a good reputation in the Vigo area. But an enthused Democratic base, the Hellman congressional campaign, plus the GOP Dole-drums give Kersey a slight lead down the home stretch.
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100TH INDIANA HOUSE

Martha Womacks, R John Day, D	LEANS D	Womacks is another credible freshman Republican who stunned the pundits (but not Horse Race) in 1994. As in the 43rd, the national dynamic is going against her. Carson's 10th CD candidacy will help Day, but this is a nail-biter.
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Horse Race Key: Safe means assured victory; Likely is outside 10 points; Leans is between 4 and 9 points; Tossup is within statistical margin of error. Status in bold/caps means a change.

TICKER TAPE

originally to be between Cuomo and Jack Kemp. "But on his way to this event, Kemp hit a rather celebrated detour," said Gov. Evan Bayh and House Speaker Paul Mannweiler in their letter announcing the event. For ticket information, call Jacquelyn Treacy or Brenda Parlapiano at 317-587-0506 or 587-0508.

Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith and AG candidate Steve Carter announced three anti-crime priorities at a Wednesday fly-around in Clarksville, Gary, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis. LG candidate George Witwer announced the plans in South Bend, Terre Haute, Lafayette and Evansville. The ticket announced three "priorities" for making Indiana safer: 1.) Ensure that there is adequate prison space to house violent and repeat offenders so that they are not free to commit additional crimes; 2.) Change state law to ensure that violent offenders serve at or near their full sentence; 3.) Appoint state judges who have proven track records as being tough on crime. Goldsmith talked about a coming "bubble of super predators." When asked about that phrase, he noted two key factors: an increase in the number of fatherless households and teenage pregnancies. "The next 10 years will make the last 10 years

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Witwer, Kernan's press club debate becomes battle of the Mini-Thin

INDIANAPOLIS - It will likely be called the "Mini-Thin Debate" between LG candidates Joe Kernan and George Witwer Tuesday afternoon at the Indianapolis Press Club.

We depart from our normal HPR Interview format with this attempt to capture the essence of the debate. The significance of Tuesday's event is that both campaigns are striking positions that will likely dominate the rest of the campaign.

The most striking contrast may come over the Goldsmith record in Indianapolis, where Witwer called it a classic example of small government. But Kernan tried to "cast some doubt on the credibility" of Goldsmith's privatization efforts in Indianapolis, calling into question "some significant errors of judgment."

The mood of the Statehouse press corps following this exchange seemed to suggest that a spate of stories - some coming as early as this weekend - will try to reconcile the claims and attacks on Indianapolis privatization.

Here are the highlights of the debate:

Norm Cox: You have been a major champion of eliminating property taxes. Why is this tax so unfair and would it require raising other taxes?

Witwer: Our proposal is to reduce property taxes by \$4.1 billion. It does not require raising other taxes to get that accomplished. What our plan calls for is state administered welfare programs that have been forced on local governments, which then had to raise property taxes to pay for these programs, to put them back in the general fund. Over four years, that will save \$1.6 billion. The other important part of our program is freezing property tax rates, which means that local governments will get more money by focusing on economic growth. It will also allow local governments to focus on more efficiency. It's a horrible tax and it's gone up 90 percent over the last eight years. I ask you, how many of you have seen your income double over the last eight years?

Kernan: I think George thought we would get into a bidding war with them. But Frank O'Bannon is much more responsible than

that. The proposal we put on the table is targeted for mid-level income homeowners. And we've demonstrated exactly how we're going to pay for this. On the other hand, this exorbitant proposal Mr. Witwer just outlined shows some questions of credibility on how you're going to pay for that. If you take \$1.6 billion out of local property taxes, you've wiped out our surplus and you set us up, certainly, for a tax increase. Secondly, when you look at what this would do to local governments by cutting property taxes in their own estimates by \$2.5 billion over next four years, that will mean that by the year 2000, local governments will be required to cut their budgets by 20 percent, on top of 15, 10 and 5 (percent) over the previous three years.

Jon Schwantes: Many legislators claim that Indianapolis gets too big of a slice of the pie. Does Indianapolis gobble up too much of the state's resources? And if so, what would you do to help correct this?

Kernan: Speaking from someone from the north, and someone who is a mayor, I can tell you we often feel like stepchildren. But the fact is, over the course of the last eight years, we've seen a different approach to government. We've seen Evan Bayh and Frank O'Bannon in the area of economic development spread their wings over the entire state. It is important for South Bend, Evansville, Richmond and Terre Haute to fly. I think Indianapolis over time has received a greater share of resources, but the fact is, Frank O'Bannon has demonstrated you have to be lieutenant governor for all the people.

Witwer: I would agree with my opponent that there is a perception that Indianapolis gets more than its fair share. In fact, I haven't seen Frank O'Bannon use his bully pulpit to correct it. We're going to propose ... the building of I-69 from Indianapolis to Evansville. We're going to be pushing very hard to build the Hoosier Heartland Corridor. You've got to focus on the governor and lieutenant governor leading the whole state of Indiana. We're not seeing that from Frank O'Bannon.

Schwantes: How do you define character and strong moral judgment?

HPR INTERVIEW

"The mayor of Indianapolis has chosen to let the bureaucrats handle it; to call Frank O'Bannon's approach 'cute'..."

- Joe Kernan

"If Frank was so concerned about this, he could have used the Pharmaceutical Board to ban Mini-Thins, but he didn't do that..."

- George Witwer



Kernan: I would define it as doing what you say you're going to do, being who you say you are, and letting the record be the judge. If you look at Frank O'Bannon and what he has done over the lifetime of public service, what he said he was going to do and the interest he was going to protect, and I don't think anyone would argue that Frank O'Bannon is a very unusual man in that his character, his integrity, his honesty and to do what is right is unassailable. When you look at the issues of credibility and judgment, I think it's important to look as well that as public officials we are responsible for taking a leadership role. Last week I went into a convenience store a couple of blocks from one of our middle schools. And I picked up a pack of Mini-Thins. Mini-Thins is an effedrine-based product, contains 25 milligrams of effedrine. It is a drug that is marketed to young people. Frank O'Bannon made a decision that because this was a gateway drug, a drug that leads to further abuse of illegal substances, that it was important for him to take a leadership role in the removal of effedrine-based products from our shelves. On the other hand, the mayor of Indianapolis has chosen to let the bureaucrats handle it; to call Frank O'Bannon's approach 'cute.'

Witwer: It's important for public officials to ... deliver what they promise. It's very easy to read the polls and decide what the public wants to hear. When Steve Goldsmith ran for mayor, he said he was going to reduce the size of government, said he was going to keep property taxes flat. He delivered more than he promised. But when it comes to describing positions, I'm surprised Joe would bring up Mini-Thins, because one of the things we have to do as leaders is accurately portray the problems. The problem is too many kids are using marijuana as a gateway drug, not Mini-Thins. In fact, there are 13,000 eighth graders abusing marijuana every month. And they said they're lead reason for concern is Mini-Thins, which has had 230 abuses. I think that is mischaracterizing the issue.

Cox: Do you have a plan to rescue a local area if one of the riverboat casinos goes bellyup, figuratively?

Kernan: The fact is that riverboat gambling is here. The fact is that it is our job now to make sure this industry is monitored, regulated

property. The decision to pursue riverboat gambling was left up to local communities. I don't think it's the state's role to have a rainy day gambling fund to step in and bail out the communities.

Witwer: First of all, Steve Goldsmith and I believe that riverboat gambling should not expand. But it's been under Frank O'Bannon that we've seen the most rapid expansion of gambling of any state in the country. In addition to that, we have one of the lowest tax rates on gambling organizations in the whole country. This is a real concern because people do get addicted to gambling. It does launch a lot of people into terrible problems. So we think we've got to slow this down. It does relate right back to what Joe was talking about with Mini-Thins and how people get addicted. Now I wanted to respond to a point that you made, Joe. It could have been that if Frank was so concerned about this, he could have used the Pharmaceutical Board to ban Mini-Thins, but he didn't do that. This is showing a mischaracterization of the issue.

Susan Dillman: There is a debate on whether it is appropriate to charge user fees and licensing fees. Could you tell us when they are appropriate and which ones you would eliminate?

Witwer: As a concept, user fees are about the fairest way to tax. You're making sure that people that are using a particular public service are paying for that public service. One of the things we'll do to streamline is to try and find those things that do not make sense, just create paperwork and are not fair. Steve Goldsmith has worked very hard to reduce the number of licenses here in Indianapolis. It's all part of our idea to make government smaller.

Kernan: It is appropriate to ask for user fees when there is an extraordinary circumstance or an extraordinary benefit that folks receive. The fact is, if you look at the city of Indianapolis, you've got a series of taxes, a series of user fees that are second to none of any community. There is not a user fee or tax enacted in this city; none of those taxes or user fees have gone down or been eliminated in the last five years. If you look at revenues received from them, they continue to go up. The fact is when you talk about smaller government, and

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look tame," Goldsmith predicted of those demographic trends.

Rex Early, speaking on behalf of the Dole campaign in Indiana, said this week a key question on the minds of Hoosiers is "What will this tax cut do for me?" Early said that the total tax savings for Indiana will be \$1.88 billion or a per family savings of \$1,655. "These tax cuts allow all Hoosiers to increase the quality of life and invest in the future. It's time for the economic decisions to be made at the kitchen table, not the conference table."

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar said that the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) would help reduce the threat of chemical terrorism. "American anti-terrorism efforts must include prohibiting terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. The CWC would make it more difficult and more costly for terrorists to acquire or use chemical weapons. One of the key tools in combating terrorism is early intelligence."

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh has accused the White House of using a "classic stonewalling technique" by not providing information requested by the General Accounting Office.

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McIntosh noted that President and Hillary Clinton ordered the creation of an expansive taxpayer-financed database on more than 200,000 citizens, including notations on people's political contributions, according to White House documents released to Congress earlier this week. "The Congress needs to know if the White House is subsidizing partisan political activities and just how the White House uses the volume of political data stored at government expense," McIntosh said.

Another interesting story broken last month by the Chicago Tribune reveals that the Immigration and Naturalization Service has allowed tens of thousands of immigrants to be sworn into citizenship in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Miami. The Tribune noted that rejection rates dramatically decreased and that most of these people would be sworn in by September, in time to be registered to vote. Democratic organizations in all those cities have played a role in helping the speedy citizenship drive. Of course, those cities are all in key electoral states. "This abuse of the naturalization process does a disservice to the nation as well as to immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship," said U.S. Rep. Mark

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Russ Pulliam, Indianapolis News - In one sense it's way too soon to think about who the next mayor of Indianapolis will be. Mayor Stephen Goldsmith just started his second term as mayor earlier this year and is running for governor in a tight race with Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon. But the voters will deliver a final verdict on Election Day, Nov. 5. Meanwhile, several candidates are, in effect, campaigning to succeed him if he does defeat O'Bannon. City-County Councilman Majority Leader Toby McClamroch and State Sen. J. Murray Clark would seem to be the unofficial leaders in an unofficial race. Another potential candidate John Mutz, is well known in Indiana political circles. His loss to Evan Bayh in the race for governor in 1988 had more to do with the Republicans enjoying the previous 20 years in that office than anything related to Mutz's career or position on the issues. His handicap now, in the eyes of some, is his age, 60, and his withdrawal from active politics since that race for governor.

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - Less than a year ago, Sen. Richard Lugar was busy warning New Hampshire voters about the potential for nuclear terrorism. He spent \$300,000 for "loose nukes" TV ads that he hoped would turn around his moribund presidential campaign. The Dole campaign called the ad series "goofy." Lamar Alexander's spokesman said, "the only bomb here is Lugar's." Funny thing, eight months later, Bob Dole and other key Republicans are attacking President Clinton - guess what? - his policies on global terrorism.

Jim Poyser, Nuvo - Bob Dole presents a conundrum to the voting population, Chuck Paxson of the local think tank, points out. "He's a war hero, disabled, heart of gold in a body of iron. He's a better man than most voters, and that can be intimidating. In fact, that's one of his slogans: A Better Man. Paxson contends that Dole needs to acquire some character flaws - fast - before time runs out." infidelity, gambling,

eating disorder, depression, the list is prodigious."

Brian Howey, HPR - Minutes before Gov. Evan Bayh's biggest speech, there was another scene that unfolded on the floor of the United Center. In an arena where any "Kennedy" could shut down an arterial entrance for dozens of minutes, in walked John Goss, a Democratic activist now employed with the Indiana Department of Commerce. But he wasn't alone. He was pushing Greg Bedan in a wheelchair. Piloting a wheelchair on a convention floor is no easy task. Goss steered Bedan onto the floor, and found him a wheelchair parking spot in front of the Indiana delegation. Tipper Gore was speaking, soon to be followed by the First Lady, a trio of challenger candidates from different regions of the nation, and then Evan Bayh. Bedan comes from Marion County's Republican-rich Lawrence Township. When he played the line on his high school football team, he took a freak hit and it ruined his spine, placing him in a wheelchair. But Bedan persevered. He went to college, got a degree, adapted to single life in a wheelchair, and ended up working for the Department of Commerce's Tourism Division. That's why Evan Bayh's personal keynote speech was to be one of the finest hours for all three men in this scene. The reason for Bedan is that he became another in a long line of Bedan family Democrats who saw it duty to become involved in American politics at a political convention. Two previous generations had attended the national convention from Bedan's family as delegates - his mother and his grandfather. At some point in time, Bedan probably thought he'd never make it. "I'm actually here," he exclaimed. "I was taken aback a little bit and then I started telling myself, I'm on the floor of a great convention. I'm on the floor. I almost started to cry, I looked at John and said, This is a dream come true. I know that I have had relatives that are dead that I never met that attended other conventions. I am fulfilling a heritage. I am walking in their footsteps."

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

INDIANAPOLIS - For the second time since the primary, an angry Frank O'Bannon stood before the microphones, looked into the eyes of the Statehouse press corps, and exhorted reporters to confront what he called "distortions."

The impetus for Wednesday's uncharacteristic O'Bannon fire was a Stephen Goldsmith TV ad, running in the Chicago TV market and aimed at Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties in Indiana. "O'Bannon voted to raise your taxes at least 38 times," the ad began. "Higher taxes on everything from gasoline to food, from cars and boats to haircuts. Frank O'Bannon never met a tax he didn't hike."

O'Bannon was furious. "This is not about buying Chicago TV," he said. "It's about distortion. Negative advertising differentiates the way a person really is. If you do it by character assassination, it shows a poor way to run government in a democracy. It's a blatant lie with no documentation of truth and it should never be printed."

Wednesday afternoon, O'Bannon's lawyers were in the process of faxing a request to the Chicago TV stations to pull the ad. While it is unusual for stations to pull ads, it is not without precedence in Indiana politics. Dan Coats demanded the pulling of a Joe Hogsett ad in 1992 and Hogsett complied.

O'Bannon showered the press corps with documentation showing votes since 1971 that he had made for cutting taxes and even included the Dec. 16, 1982, special session roll-call when O'Bannon voted against the largest tax increase in Hoosier history.

Goldsmith, who was late from a Gary press conference after dodging a thunderstorm, found one when he arrived to meet the Statehouse press corps. The reporters patiently waited for Goldsmith and AG candidate Steve Carter to talk about their anti-crime proposals, and after 15 minutes, began writing notes and turning on tape recorders when talk turned to the Chicago TV ad.

"The number of tax increases were greater than the number we put in the ad,"

Goldsmith said. "We actually reduced the number."

"Do we stand behind it," Goldsmith asked of the ad. "I suspect precisely we could say there rarely has been a tax that Frank didn't like to hike, rather than never. We'll consider that issue. We'll be happy to debate with him how many taxes he's actually hiked."

In the Goldsmith campaign's "Frank O'Bannon Tax Hike history" release, a majority of the tax hikes were actually fee increases. Many others were innkeeper taxes requested by Clark, Floyd and St. Joseph counties.

Goldsmith has characterized his own fee increases in Indianapolis as not being tax hikes. He told Mary Dieter of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, "You're right. User fees are a different matter than tax hikes."

"Why are his fees taxes and yours aren't?" asked Mary Beth Schneider of the *Indianapolis Star/News*.

"He had raised taxes at least the number of times that are in that commercial," Goldsmith said. "He has raised fees more than that number of times."

Schneider followed up: "Are there at least 38 tax increases that aren't fees?"

Goldsmith responded, "I'm not sure how many are taxes and how many are fees."

While Hoosier voters can expect a huge tax war to be played out in the media, from a purely political standpoint, Wednesday revealed past and future dilemmas for both Goldsmith and O'Bannon. As the Vargus poll shows O'Bannon leading Goldsmith 36-33 percent, the Republican had to respond in the Chicago media market to try to shore up lagging support in The Region. No Indiana candidate has ever used expensive Chicago TV time until the final weeks of the campaign. Goldsmith had to show up big, or risk being left behind.

O'Bannon must now decide when to go up in Chicago himself. Perhaps both candidates might want to stop by a Hammond casino along the way to throw a little campaign dice.

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Souder. "By not ensuring that applicants are able to speak English and understand the responsibilities of citizenship, those involved in this fraud have rendered new citizens unprepared for life in America. That's as bad as putting a bar bouncer in charge of FBI files."

What is U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton's economic assessment? "On many measures, the economy today is in good shape. Unemployment is near a 25-year low, and so is inflation," Hamilton said. "The stock market is booming, growth of the overall economy is solid and Federal Reserve officials have been optimistic enough about inflation to leave interest rates unchanged." Not all news is good, Hamilton noted. Income inequality has worsened over the past several years and wages, which have been stagnant since the 1980s, are just now starting to rise again.

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats joined the majority in passing the Defense of Marriage Act, which passed in the Senate by an 85-14 margin. "The definition of marriage is not created by politicians and judges and it cannot be changed by them," Coats said. "It is rooted in our history, our laws, our deepest moral and religious convictions, and our nature as human beings. It is the union of one man and one

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woman. This fact can be respected or it can be resented, but it cannot be altered."

Gov. Evan Bayh will give the keynote address to the annual meeting of the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Indianapolis Athletic Club. A debate will take place between LG candidates Joe Kernan and George Witwer at 10:45 a.m.

Citizen advocate and presidential candidate Ralph Nader will give the keynote address at an FO Indiana seminar from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday Sept. 21 at the Lecture Hall at IUPUI. Nader will speak at noon. The cost is \$7 and registration can be made by calling 317-633-9381 by Sept. 18.

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Newt Gingrich, from page 4

very powerful figure. He controls the agenda, the procedure and whoever controls the procedures controls the legislative result. You can't avoid the fact that Speaker Gingrich has a record.

"With regard to the 9th District, I find Speaker Gingrich to be one of the most unpopular politicians in America today. His unfavorable ratings are extremely high in Southern Indiana as they are across the country."

How did Gingrich spiral so far down in the assessment of Hoosiers? Part of it rests with Souder, Hostettler and McIntosh - the vanguard of what Sen Dan Coats calls the "libertarian wing of the Republican party" that pushed Gingrich further to the right, culminating with last December's government shutdown.

Ironically, it was a fracture on that issue and the Speaker's subsequent fundraising snub that has allowed Souder and Hostettler to breeze clear of Gingrich's flaming debris of 1996 and deflect the tag of "Newtoid Robots."

The historical missed opportunity for

the Republican Revolution may have been Gingrich moving further toward the right when the golden opportunity was there in 1995 to coalesce an enduring American political majority to the moderate center.

Instead, it has become the bloodless American version of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, where the disciples hit the streets and beyond the control of the leader. Nothing illustrates this point more than a Hotline/Battleground poll that shows 18 percent of Bush supporters in 1992 are now supporting President Clinton.

Jim Knoop of the Blankenbaker campaign is philosophical about the Gingrich millstone. "Julia Carson was going to hang Newt Gingrich around our neck no matter what," he said. Thus, Gingrich came to Indianapolis last July and raised \$50,000 for Blankenbaker.

Blankenbaker, a moderate Republican, may be forced to use that money in generating points to deflect the Gingrich card in October and November.

HPR Interview, from page 5

government spending less, Indiana isn't the place to go to look. Over the course of the last four years, the Goldsmith administration spent \$1.2 billion more than the last term of Mayor Hudnut. That's a 63 percent increase over a four-year period. That's not smaller government, that's bigger government, more taxes, more money out of people's pockets.

Schwantes: As bids for office become more expensive, campaign finance reform becomes a bigger issue in the eyes and minds of voters. What would you do to help control campaign costs?

Witwer: This is a very, very tough issue. We need to have campaigns as fair as possible. But we need to make sure the laws we write are fair to everyone, not just incumbents. Just limiting expenditures can help incumbents a lot more than challengers. So we don't want to write laws to actually benefit those who are already there. At the same time, we've got to do something because it's getting far, far too expensive. Unfortunately, the kind of proposals, Frank

O'Bannon proposed after the primary were weighted to his advantage. What we are trying to do is do something that is fair to everyone.

Kernan: I don't think it's appropriate for the public to finance campaigns. But I think it is appropriate for the public to understand very clearly where campaign contributions come from. Now when Frank O'Bannon proposed to Steve Goldsmith to put a lid on spending, it exempted the \$2.7 million the mayor spent in the primary. What came out of this is Mayor Goldsmith saying, "Gee, you're trying to put me on an unfair playing field." I think the fact that Mayor Goldsmith went out this morning and bought negative advertising in the City of Chicago should put to rest worrying about the amount of money Mayor Goldsmith is going to raise. The fact is by having the public understand where our money comes from is very, very important. It is important to understand that Mayor Goldsmith's largest contribution from the state of Indiana is a guy who makes Mini-Thins. I'm sorry I had to go back to it. The fact is he got \$53,000 in the last year and it questions his judgment again.