

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“It did keep me awake. If I didn’t know either one of us, I wouldn’t know who to vote for....”

—Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, responding to an HPR question on whether he has seen his and Frank O’Bannon’s political ads while casually watching TV

McDaniel doesn’t see 1994 redux

Republican chairman sees a ‘normal election’

A tsunami has never hit Switzerland.

And Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel, who carved out that neutral nickname for himself during the heated primary race between Steve Goldsmith and Rex Early, doesn’t see a Democratic tidal wave hitting his beloved Indiana in 1996.

“One of the things I disagree with is that this election will be a reversal of 1994,” McDaniel said. “I see this election going back to being a more normal election. People are going to pick and choose all over the lot. I think voters in Indiana are smarter than most people give them credit for. They are more interested in individual districts instead of this mass national wave.”

In his next breath, McDaniel did acknowledge, “It will matter who can turn their vote out. I don’t see a real huge turnout.”

In 1994, Hoosier Democrats lost all statewide seats, the Indiana House and three Congressional seats in large part because 10 to 15 percent of the party’s base simply stayed home. Joe Hogsett knew he had lost the 2nd CD race against David McIntosh when auto workers wouldn’t look him in the eye as they headed in for their 7 a.m. shift.

The same no-shows of party regulars hurt Democrats in 1980 when the Reagan landslide materialized in the final weekend of the campaign, and Republicans in 1974 as part of the Watergate fallout. Studies show that when perceptions of a party work against it strongly, many voters who know the folks at their local precinct, are just too embarrassed to show up.

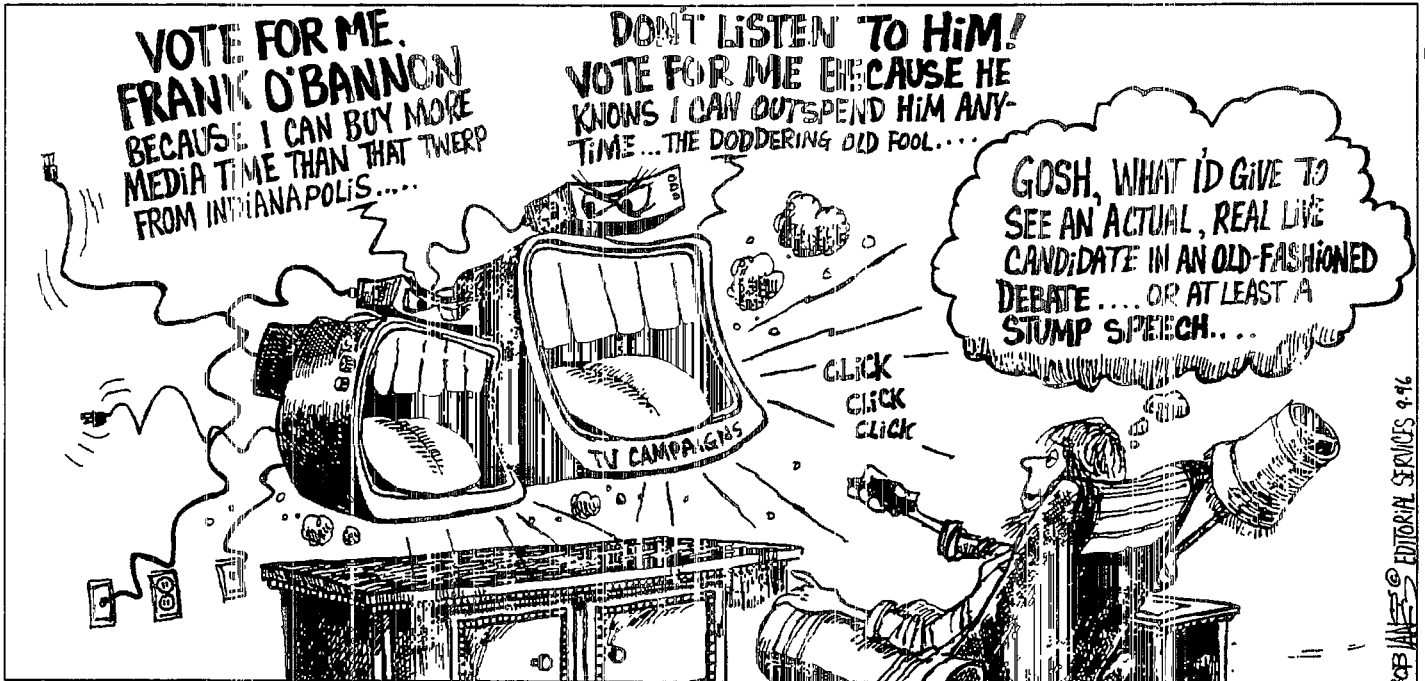
In the Republicans’ way of thinking, voters aren’t nearly as angry at Speaker Newt Gingrich in 1996 as they were at President Clinton in 1994. Indiana Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew seized upon that distinction. “The question is not anger, it’s apathy,” he said. “Apathy is even worse than anger.”

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Indiana’s fastest growing source of political news



TICKER T A P E

PLAY OF THE WEEK: Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's call for an end to the negative campaigning. While he may be looking for a political advantage, both campaigns might want to give this serious consideration. Could be a great test for compromise skills.



Roll Call published a guide to the 105th Congress last week and it forecasts an interesting showdown over who will replace Rep. William Clinger as chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton is in line to replace him. Says Roll Call, "But Burton has a problem: Sources say that the leadership feels he is

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McDaniel: We will contact 2 million voters

From page 1

McDaniel's reputation is as a nuts and bolts political operative. About 10 months ago, he put into motion a get-out-the-vote campaign that is just reaching maturity. "There has been a lot of time, effort and energy going in to turn it out the vote," he said. "It will be the greatest single expenditure going into this campaign. By doing all the things we need to do, we will have contact with over 2 million voters."

In 1994, Indiana Democrats may have sealed the fate of many of their candidates by lack of a GOTV. In Jill Long's race against Mark Souder that year, it wasn't until the final 10 days of the campaign that the Allen County party organization even attempted to stoke up the regulars, and Long lost by 10 points.

Andrew, who has tirelessly worked the state trying to rebuild the Democratic grassroots for the past two years, calls this year's GOTV "the biggest and best ever. And that's all I'm going to say about it."

How many voters will the Democrats reach? he was asked.

"A lot," Andrew responded.

Both parties are trying to take advantage of the new Motor Voter laws. Both are working diligently to turn out absentee voters.

McDaniel said his absentee program will be the same as it was during the last two elections. Motor Voter has simply created a bigger pool of voters to identify.

While many observers believe that Motor Voter would help Democrats, McDaniel insists that in the first special elections since it was instituted, "it worked to our advantage."

The reason is that people who registered at places like license branches "were more inclined to vote for our candidates," McDaniel said. "And for those who registered at public assistance facilities, the turnout was in single digit percentages."

McDaniel has also created a ballot security team. "We're making sure we have people in place in each precinct," he said. The goal is to be able to challenge anyone on residency.

Already the campaign of 10th CD Republican Virginia Blankenbaker has identified more than a dozen voters who used Julia Carson's Center Township trustee office as their address.

"No one will steal an election this year," McDaniel vowed. "The stakes are too high."



**'Tis the season to debate;
Lambert now a leaner;
Hamilton sliding home**

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: The debate sequence has arrived. Clinton-Dole go at it Sunday night. Goldsmith-O'Bannon clash Monday night in Greencastle with no-nonsense Ken Bode moderating. Joe Andrew says expectations lower for O'Bannon. Golden chance for Goldsmith to dominate.

PRESIDENT

Bill Clinton, D	Likely D	Star-News/WTHR poll gives Clinton 41-39 percent lead in Indiana. Hotline/ Battleground poll (Sept. 23-26) has Clinton leading 52-34.
Bob Dole, Rep		CNN/USA Today/Gallup (Sept. 27-29) has Clinton up 56-34 percent. <i>Washington Post</i> (Sept. 20-26) has Clinton up 52-37 percent.
Ralph Nader, I		
Ross Perot, Ref		
Harry Browne, L		

GOVERNOR

Stephen Goldsmith, R	Tossup	Star-News/WTHR poll to be released Friday has O'Bannon leading Goldsmith 44-41 percent. Goldsmith appears stuck in low 40s. Sources tell Horse Race that FOB is attracting more Republicans than MSG is getting Dems. O'Bannon is also pulling half the independents while Goldsmith is getting a third.
Frank O'Bannon, D		
Steve Dillon, L		

74TH INDIANA HOUSE

Sally Rideout Lambert, R	LEANS D	Hey-hey, wait a minute. McDaniel putting his personal integrity on this one. Dems say polls show Stilwell leading just "beyond the margin." Hmmm. We'll move this one from Safe to Leans.
Russ Stilwell, D		

7TH CD

John Hostettler, R	Tossup	<i>Rothenberg Political Report</i> still has this race Tossup/Tilt GOP. Weinzapfel not spending much on TV 10 days after going up. Four Evansville affiliates and TCI Cable reject AFL-CIO ads.
Jonathon Weinzapfel, D		

9TH CD

Jean Leising, R	SAFE D	Leising fundraising in "Doledrums." Hamilton refusing to debate and is going up on Louisville TV market this week. The ump says, "Safe!"
Lee Hamilton, D		

3RD CD

Joe Zakas, R	LEANS D	Sources tell us RNCC is willing to sink resources in this race. Roemer currently has big \$\$ lead and Kernan on the ticket helps him.
Tim Roemer, D		

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
T A P E**

too partisan, too fiery and not careful enough to lead this committee." That was news to Burton press aide Kevin Long, who said he hasn't heard the rumors and that Burton is planning to take the committee helm. But names are flying around Capitol Hill as possible alternatives, including U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. Roll Call quoted an GOP aide as saying that McIntosh "has done a great job with his subcommittee."

Roll Call did a study of \$100,000 salaried House and Senate staffers. Included on the list were two from Indiana: Curt Smith (identified as John Smith, chief of staff for U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, at \$108,234; Devin Anderson, administrative assistant for McIntosh at \$101,765; Sallie Davis, chief of staff for U.S. Rep. John Myers; and Marty Morris, administrative assistant/chief of staff for U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, \$125,750.

Finally from Roll Call, Juliet Eilperin did a story on the last of the Class of '67, which includes retiring Indiana Congressman John Myers, along with Democrats Sonny Montgomery and Tom Beville. "You think it's a coincidence the three of us are retiring this year?" Myers bluntly asked. The story noted that Myers "suffered an even more

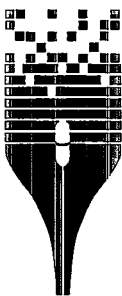
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Speaker Mannweiler looks for status quo to return to the House

HPR INTERVIEW

"If they want things to stay the same and have more property tax increases, they probably ought to stay with the Democrats...."

- Paul Mannweiler



INDIANAPOLIS - Republican House Speaker Paul Mannweiler looked dapper as usual, reading the Sept. 25 edition of the HPR and the John Gregg interview.

"He doesn't think they'll lose the Copenhaver seat?" Mannweiler observed of Gregg's predictions. "Tom Saunders is a guy who was willing to do the job of a janitor and the Democrats are going with this Indianapolis attorney," he said of the New Castle-area race very much in play.

Mannweiler then proceeded - as Gregg did - to pre-spin the battle for the House, as well as look forward to the possibility of a "Gov. Goldsmith" and the approach of what everyone is calling "the historic" 1997 legislative session.

HPR: Let's start with the horse race stuff. Where do you think the Republican caucus stands at this point? How many seats will you end up with?

Mannweiler: I'm confident we'll be about where we currently are. A number of members are in a politically volatile year. There are two or three incumbents who will probably lose. Who they are I can't tell you right now. The voters will have to make that decision. But, on the other side of that, we're confident there will be two or three Democratic incumbents who will not be back.

HPR: Who fits into your category there?

Mannweiler: There are a couple of open seats. You had the one appointed representative in New Castle. I think that's a district that's a blue collar district. You have a lawyer who represented the city of New Castle as the Democratic candidate. On our side we have sort of a blue collar Republican in Tom Saunders. We think that's a good opportunity. Barb Engle switching over with the Allen County and Decatur being a very conservative area, we're looking at her votes and the number of bills she's proposed in the past. That's a district we have a good opportunity to pick up. I think we have a good opportunity in Bob Bischoff's area where he ran third in the largest city in his district, so we think that's a good opportunity. Dick Hamm barely lost to Dick Bodiker two years ago. There are a

couple of others: the Ron Liggett seat where we've got Sam Shoemaker who's a popular guy, David Younts in Columbus running against Bob Hayes. He's gotten out and worked real hard. Sue O'Brien in Lafayette. We think there are eight or 10 possibilities and we think we can win two or three of those in challenger positions.

HPR: What does your tracking show?

Mannweiler: It's showing three or four of those people are being very competitive and the others were in the process of moving up. Their polls have constantly improved.

HPR: Who are the safe House freshmen and who are you going to have to work on?

Mannweiler: All of those seats are certainly in question. Brent Steel has less of a challenge from Linda Henderson. A number of them are safer. The six or seven will be close races. When you look at the quality of the opponent, a number of them will have the opportunity to entrench themselves into Democratic districts. That's something we have not had. There are a number of Democrats in Republican districts who have stayed. You're going to see that happening beginning this term. John Kimmell is in a university town and has done a lot for the community. David Lohr, just because he's a scrapper. He has a district that's hard to define because it runs from Terre Haute to Martinsville. I think Lohr has a good shot of keeping his seat. Sally Rideout Lambert is a good example who has gone out, worked, has had town meetings, has support all over the district. In all candor, Mike Phillips had rested on his laurels and hadn't really worked a lot, campaign-wise. Now they've seen somebody who cares and what they can do.

HPR: Do you really think she has a chance of pulling that one off? Democrats are downright cocky about that one.

Mannweiler: I think they're selling Sally short. I realize that's a 42 percent Republican district. But I think there are a lot of people who will come out and support. They have the hard-core labor vote, but that doesn't necessarily expand into the rest of the community. I think Sally's just going to out work them. Cleo Duncan

is another one who has just worked hard. Irene Heffley and Marty Womacks are both going to be close races. Jon Padfield is doing extremely well. I don't think their candidate has taken off. And people turned out Ben GiaQuinta, who was not very animated and he's certainly not going to be more animated than John Becker this time. John has realized he has to expand his base. I think Jim Vanleer is going to give them a heck of a battle and retain that seat.

HPR: The way these districts are drawn, do you believe House control may be decided by a few thousand votes statewide?

Mannweiler: It could be.

HPR: What will be the Republican caucus themes in these competitive districts?

Mannweiler: There will be a very positive approach from the Republicans. We made promises in October of 1994 to cut property taxes, to cut auto excise taxes, to pass welfare reform, stiffen criminal penalties. We did all of those things. I think you're going to see from Republicans promises made, promises kept. We came along last time and accelerated those auto excise tax cuts, made long term investments in teacher and unfunded liability pensions, and Indiana's social security problem. It doesn't affect us immediately right now but 10 years from now when your property taxes are tripling so you can pay for police, firemen and teachers, I think people are going to realize we did the right thing. If you look at the record, it's a very positive record of tax cuts, of making long-term investments, increasing funding for higher ed and K-through-12 and we did it while creating a budget surplus.

HPR: Are we going to see you trot out the chart you kept in your office here two years ago?

Mannweiler: I think you might. There's a number of things we've talked to the Goldsmith campaign team and the Senate about.

HPR: What impact will prevailing wage have on this election?

Mannweiler: While the special interests are opposed to the changes Republicans made, the property taxpayers who we were representing wanted property tax control. That's one way to control property tax costs. These projects cost a lot more than they have to. We're seeing a lot of savings under the new provision. The only thing we did was put two additional taxpayers

on those boards and we opened the meetings to the public.

HPR: The Goldsmith campaign criticized Frank O'Bannon for backing tax hikes that he didn't, but you did. How integrated is the House campaign and the Goldsmith camp?

Mannweiler: What the Goldsmith campaign was trying to do was identify that Frank had a life before he was lieutenant governor. Most people had no idea that he had been a state senator for 18 years and had basically been a lifetime politician. The 1987 program was something that Frank was running for governor in '87 and needed teacher union support so he didn't support that program. That was politically fortuitous, much as Evan Bayh's claim was fortuitous because the Senate Republicans wouldn't let him.

HPR: Is the Goldsmith legislative agenda under way?

Mannweiler: The Republican Senate, the Republican House and the Goldsmith campaign are all working together.

HPR: Who is the Goldsmith legislative point man?

Mannweiler: Well, I think it's Joe Loftus, who's done as much of that for the Goldsmith campaign as anybody.

HPR: There isn't going to be a lot of time between the election and the '97 session. How will you put such a complex plan in place?

Mannweiler: The DeBoer study will be a big part of it. The property tax committee will have some ideas as to what needs to be done. I think property taxes will be the issue that will drive the '97 session and there's a diverse opinion on that. We'll develop consensus.

HPR: Do you agree with Goldsmith's property tax freeze?

Mannweiler: That's a good proposal because it draws some distinctions. While Frank has talked about his billion dollar tax cut, he still allows for all the growth rate in the schools.

HPR: Is a Gov. Goldsmith's nightmare a Democratic House with big ISTA influence?

Mannweiler: If people want to get something done cutting property taxes, it's going to take a Republican House, a Republican Senate and a Republican governor. If they want things to stay the same and have more property tax increases, they probably ought to stay with the Democrats.

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ignominious blow" when Speaker Newt Gingrich refused to make him chair of the Appropriations Committee. After watching Rep. Bob Livingstone handle the duties over the past two years, Myers observed, "The way it worked out, I'm lucky I didn't have the chairmanship. If I'd been chairman, I would have been chairman." Instead, Livingston was "dictated to" by Gingrich and may not return as chairman should Republicans retain control of Congress.

Myers still shares a drink each day with retiring Rep. Jimmy Quillen of Texas at the Capitol Hill Club. Quillen sips Old Crow whisky, and Myers has vodka. Majority Leader Dick Armey calls the two "the old codgers club."

As expected, State Sen. Bob Hellmann has formally requested the Federal Election Commission to investigate the sale and lease-back of Republican Ed Pease's Terre Haute home. "I did not come to the decision to call on the FEC to investigate lightly," Hellmann said. "We have taken the time to examine the disclosed papers, consult the FEC and talk with specialists on FEC law. We have come to the conclusion that there is reason to believe that federal campaign laws have been violated

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in a substantial way."

Madison County Democratic Chairman Tom Ashley told the Anderson Herald-Bulletin that if the election were held this week, Bill Clinton would carry Indiana and Frank O'Bannon would win the governor's race. "I wish the election were held today," he said. "It will be tough for Clinton to win Indiana. If he does carry this state, they don't have to count the rest of the votes."

Keep an eye on the 64th House District where former John Hostettler campaign manager Rob Krieg is running against Democrat John Frenz. Krieg hails from Princeton and is trying to lay claim to the home base that out-going State Rep. Rick McConnell used. Frenz is a Vincennes businessman who is well-funded. Sources tell HPR that Krieg is about ready to begin a televised ad campaign, which would be a first for a Republican in that district in a long, long time.

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler will send 500 volunteers out into the 8th CD on Saturday in what the campaign is calling a "Hostettler Mega-Blitz."

U.S. Rep. Richard Lugar, U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton and Zbigniew Brzezinski released a study on Thursday titled,

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Kevin Leininger, *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* - It's been almost four years since this newspaper endorsed Bill Clinton for president. We changed our minds later, of course, and I conveniently have forgotten why we supported Clinton in the first place. But I seem to remember that it came down to something like this: "At least he's not George Bush." Now the 1996 presidential campaign is just weeks away, and we on the editorial board once again must endorse a candidate for president. As for which candidate we'll support, I can't really say yet. I'm leaning toward Bob Dole. Why? Because at least he's not Bill Clinton.

Mary Dieter, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith last week finally did what he should have done much, much earlier if he was to defuse the time bomb set ticking by the Aug. 27 police brawl. On Tuesday he announced several things he'd do in response to citizens' outrage that some of the police officers hired to serve and protect them would behave in violent, racist, sexist and otherwise offensive ways. Why it took so long is anybody's guess. Did Goldsmith think that the incident would fade away? That he could hand off responsibility to the prosecutor to convene a grand jury and be done with it? Or did he think that most Indianapolis residents didn't care? Or did the Republican gubernatorial candidate calculate that nobody outside Indianapolis would notice?

Brian Howey, *HPR* - So, is Goldsmith really the advocate for "smaller government" that has become the cornerstone of his campaign? The reality of this appears to be that the city is a nicer place to live, with many new streets, roads, bridges and nice spongy greens and lush fairways on the privatized golf courses, but the answer is no. And it's not all his fault. Most property tax increases in Indiana don't come from cities, where mayors and council members are most accountable to voters. They come from school districts and other taxing entities. Goldsmith was saying as far back as 1994 that

in order to create the best situation for Indianapolis and other city taxpayers, he would have to become governor to attack the greater problems in the Indiana General Assembly. That's where his property tax freeze proposal comes into play. Therein lies a key political miscalculation on the part of Goldsmith. He had a chance to cut into the bureaucracy and pass on savings to taxpayers. Instead, Goldsmith took the savings and moved them into tiles, bricks, concrete and asphalt, to the benefit of an Indianapolis that glowed like the Hoosier crown jewel we saw during ABC Monday Night Football's blimp shots earlier this week during the Colts-Dolphins game. The problem for Goldsmith is that the facts don't match the political rhetoric. Had he ignored the "smaller government" sloganeering and instead concentrated on what a fine place he has helped Indianapolis become and what he planned for the rest of Indiana, the Republican nominee would be on much firmer ground.

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - A radio ad that incumbent Republican Rep. Mark Souder ran last week was designed to get listeners thinking about what a fine job the GOP-led Congress has done. It had the Souder stamp all over it: Colloquial phrases. "One of the things that really used to tick me off?" Sarcasm. "It's funny to hear congressmen complain that the overtime laws are stupid. We have busy seasons and slow ones. Yeah, like retailers don't." But the ad also included an error. In his list of congressional accomplishments, Souder said, "We banned free dinners and gifts from lobbyists. We cut staff dollars, reduced the lobbyists' power, put term limits on committee chairmen, reduced congressional pensions." Souder's final point - that congressional pensions were reduced - is just plain wrong. The House voted to put the lawmakers' pension rules on the same footing with rules for congressional staff, but the bill this provision was put into was vetoed by the president. Does this strike you as too fine a point? Souder acknowledges the error, but thinks it's "picky."

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Sally Rideout Lambert has folks thinking about another upset

BOONVILLE - This story has a familiar ring to it:

A young, female political pro, facing huge odds, doggedly works a district that overwhelmingly favors her opponent's party, gets precious little money from her own party, and yet finds herself positioned for the upset.

Welcome to Sally Rideout Lambert's neighborhood that stretches out of the bluffs, forests and farmland of Warrick, Gibson, Spencer, DuBois and Perry counties. In 1994, she was the unknown player who provided the GOP with its capstone accomplishment. Just after midnight, Al Hubbard and Devin Anderson were astounded to find that Lambert had defeated Indiana House Speaker Michael K. Phillips by 275 votes.

By 1995, reality set in. Lambert voted for prevailing wage reforms that made the Democratic organizations along the Ohio angry. They positioned a United Mine Worker activist, Russ Stilwell, as the heir to Phillips' throne. And virtually everyone - including HPR - figured Lambert would be a goner on Nov. 5. Stilwell reported \$45,000 in his war chest earlier this year. He is supposed to be positioned to take advantage of a renewed and vigorous labor movement.

Interesting that Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel is now declaring the 74th to be a barn-burner redux. "I think she's ahead," McDaniel said. "She beat Phillips because people were tired of that kind of politics. I think people are giving Sally the benefit of the doubt. Everything I find is she's in a pretty good race."

Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew is amused and skeptical. "Unless he's got an October surprise planned, I just don't see it," Andrew said. "But Mike has been going out of his way staking his personal integrity that Sally will win that one."

Lambert seemed amused at HPR's renewed interest in her race, and rationally

confident. "I told them not to underestimate me," she said. "Our last poll actually shows we were ahead a month or two ago."

How could that be? The 74th House District is a landslide Democratic bastion. "I think it has to do that I've worked real hard over the years. I have almost 85 percent name ID throughout the district. I don't think my opponent has worked as hard as he should have. I believe they were taking the race for granted."

Lambert believes two years of town meetings have secured trust, even from Democrats. "The first time I was in Tell City, I had eight people come out. The second time, one person came. The third time, eight people came. I think even if people don't come, they know I was there."

Stilwell went up on radio last week with the ad emphasizing his ties to the Democratic Party. Lambert has conducted an exhaustive door-to-door campaign, has a big direct mail drive lined up, is about ready to begin her radio and will end up on TV in the near future.

"I was outspent 3 to 1 last time," she said. "This time, I'll be able to pay for what I need."

Again, the burning question is, how is Lambert either leading, or keeping it close? She points to the fact that both she and Stilwell are from Boonville, as was Phillips. "People in the outlying areas are skeptical of two people from Boonville," she said. "I have been very attentive to people in Perry County. Michael K. Phillips never was. That gives them the benefit of the doubt to support me."

How will prevailing wage play in this race out here in big UMW country?

"I think he'll try to use it against me," Lambert said. "But we've seen in polling questions that if the question is phrased in the correct way, people support what we did."

"We have to frame the argument."

This is a race on the verge of critical mass; a race worth keeping an eye on.

TICKER T A P E

"Foreign Policy into the 21st Century: The U.S. Leadership Challenge." Said Lugar, "This study emphasizes the importance of U.S. leadership in the world. America cannot take on the entire burden alone but can be the catalyst for alliances that achieve international peace and stability and promote market economies."

The Indiana Civil Liberties Union is hosting a day-long conference Monday titled, "Piety & Politics: The Changing American Family." Speakers include Charles C. Haynes, scholar in residence at the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University, Indianapolis Star religion reporter Judith Cebula, Wall Street Journal contributor Terry Eastland, Ira Glasser, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, Cinergy president John Mutz and former U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey.

Rothenberg Political Report is calling the 10th CD race between Julia Carson and Virginia Blankenbaker one of 21 "indicator races" for the control of the U.S. House. "The House is in play and Republican control rests on 12 to 15 freshmen, a half dozen open Democratic seats, a half dozen Democratic incumbents and a handful of non-freshmen Republican incumbents. Not

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included on his list is the 8th CD race between Hostettler and Democrat Jonathon Weinzapel, who is apparently having trouble raising money. Said analyst Stuart Rothenberg, "Most likely net change in the House: a Democratic gain in the 8 to 12 seat range, keeping the House in GOP control." Rothenberg added, "We are expecting Republican candidates to play on voters' doubts - as demonstrated in multiple surveys - about the advisability of giving Democrats the White House and Congress.

Al Hubbard has been faxing the news media in Indiana this past year with advisories on behalf of the Goldsmith campaign. This curious one crossed our desk this week: "A recent fax contained a brief reference to a commercial run against Steve by Rex Early's campaign in the Republican primary. I want to make sure my comment was not misunderstood: Rex Early was a tough, fair opponent. He has been a terrific leader for the Republican Party through good times and bad and his service to the party as state chairman of the Dole for President campaign will, I am sure, guarantee that Indiana once again supports the Republican candidate for president." Early had been sharply critical of Hubbard for not supporting his candidacy,

Governor's race could turn on the debates

INDIANAPOLIS - Within 24 hours of each other two debates will have significant impact on the Indiana political scene.

The first televised presidential debate will take place at 8 p.m. Sunday night between President Clinton and Bob Dole, who still trails by a whopping 18 points in several polls and is in a deadheat in Indiana. A perceived Dole victory could make a significant ripple here.

On Monday, Mayor Goldsmith and LG O'Bannon meet at DePauw University. Much of the state's media will be watching that one. Democrats are hoping that O'Bannon can hold his own. Goldsmith, trailing in the latest Vargus poll 44-41 percent, is in dire need of a knockout punch either there or during a statewide televised debate in mid-October in Indianapolis.

Last Monday when Goldsmith made an offer for both campaigns to pull their negative ads, he was asked if that would give him an advantage because under that format, the TV ads would be personally delivered by the candidates. Yes, Goldsmith said, he believes he would be the better communicator. "Sure, I would like to make my case before the public," he said.

Goldsmith almost always begins a speech by telling his audience that he "won't take much of their time" before rapidly mowing through his agenda. O'Bannon speaks on a much more deliberate Butternut Hoosier pace. The contrast will be as distinct as the direction they want to take the state. The \$64,000 question is which style will hit home with Hoosier voters seeking confidence in a leader.



The Howey Political Report
presents at absolutely no cost



The Smoked-Filled Room

An informal, after-work
discussion and gossip
exchange on the current
Indiana political environment

hosted by HPR Publisher Brian Howey

5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday Oct. 9
Rathskeller Restaurant at the Atheneum
401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis

(cigars are welcome)