

NATION & WORLD

# Speculation surrounds Bayh as potential Gore running mate

BY MIKE SMITH  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Evan Bayh's quick rise from Indiana secretary of state to two-term governor to U.S. senator did not surprise Hoosiers. Seeds of his popularity were planted years ago by his father, Birch.

The younger Bayh has been a rising star on the national scene for Democrats, as well. President Clinton tapped him to deliver the keynote address at the party's 1996 national convention.

But Al Gore's running mate? Vice President Bayh? Maybe, say some political observers playing matchmaker in the "veepstakes."

Bayh, whose constant courting of the political center earned him a "Republican" tag in Indiana, takes an "aw shucks" approach when asked publicly about prospects of being on Gore's ticket.

"I'm flattered by your questions, but I think it would be premature of me to even speculate about it," he said in March when Gore's wife Tipper visited for a fund-raiser.

The Gore camp says Bayh — his name is pronounced "buy" — is a great guy, "but there is no list and Al Gore has said it is premature to even begin talking about this process," campaign spokeswoman Kathleen Begala said.

That leaves others to speculate, and some put Bayh at or near the top of their list of possible Gore running mates.

Ron Faucheux, editor in chief of *Campaigns & Elections* magazine, has Bayh tied with California Sen. Diane Feinstein as the likely pick.

"A young, attractive vote-getter from a GOP-leaning Midwestern state, Bayh has eight years gubernatorial experience (1989-97) in addition to his two-year Senate tenure," Faucheux wrote. "He is to Gore what Gore was to Clinton: a reinforcing choice."

Another name mentioned is Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin. Illinois and other Mid-

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**Ron Faucheux**  
Editor in Chief, *Campaigns & Elections*

west states are viewed as battle grounds that could tip the balance in November.

When asked who Gore's choice should be, Durbin mentioned Bayh alone.

"I think he's a very attractive potential candidate for vice president, having served as governor of Indiana, (and) a family name legendary in the Democratic Party," Durbin said.

Like Gore, Bayh, 44, is the son of a senator who had presidential aspirations, and both attended St. Albans prep school, a top choice among powerful Washingtonians.

In 1988 at age 32, Bayh became the youngest governor in the country. Unlike his father, considered a Great Society liberal, he has carved a reputation as a social moderate and fiscal tightwad.

From the day he became governor, Bayh began protecting his political image as a cautious, centrist steward. While many have claimed he accomplished no great feats, there was never a scathing scandal, and he was wildly popular.

There also were no new taxes.

"There appears to be nothing in Evan Bayh's background that would cause any grief to Al Gore," said Ed Feigenbaum, a longtime political observer and publisher of *Indiana Legislative Insight*, a weekly newsletter.

In Indiana, which a Democratic presidential nominee hasn't captured since Lyndon Johnson in 1964, Bayh proved himself as one who can transcend party lines. Gore and Republican George W. Bush are trying to do the same as they battle for the independent vote.

In his Senate election in 1998, Bayh won 90 percent of the Democratic vote and 30 percent of the Republican count, according to exit polls.

Dave Rohde, a political science professor at Michigan State University, agreed Bayh would do no harm to the Gore ticket, but doubted he will be picked.

Indiana has 12 electoral votes, not a huge payday in presidential politics. Florida, with 25 votes, is a bigger prize and it's in play, so Florida Sen. Bob Graham makes more sense as a vice presidential pick to Rohde.

It takes 270 votes in the Electoral College to win the presidency.

"If the Democrats are to carry Indiana, they would have already won the presidency elsewhere. So, what you want is someone likely to bring you a state that carries the 270th electoral vote, not the 350th electoral vote," Rohde said.

Another criticism of Bayh is that he's perceived as too much like Gore — stiff, measured, dispassionate.

Bayh said he and Gore share common goals: balancing the budget, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and spreading economic prosperity to more people.

But he said there is a lot of time until the Democratic Party convention in August and Gore's decision, and that "many things can change between now and then."

"While the speculation is certainly understandable, I think it's premature," Bayh said.

# Bush unveils 'New Prosperity' plan

BY GLEN JOHNSON  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — George W. Bush outlined a plan today to give the working poor credits for health insurance and rental vouchers for home down payments.

He also said he plans to offer tax credits for banks that match the savings deposits of poor people.

Called his "New Prosperity Initiative," the \$42 billion plan expands on tax-cut and education proposals previously offered by the all-but-official Republican presidential nominee and continues his outreach to independents and moderate Democratic voters by talking about subjects often ignored by Republican candidates.

"At the edges of affluent communities, there are those living in prosperity's shadow," Bush said in remarks prepared for afternoon delivery to community and church leaders.

"The same economy that is a miracle for millions of Americans is a mystery for millions as well, Americans who live in a world above welfare assistance but beneath prosperity's promise," he said.

One part of his plan: Expand home ownership by giving participants in the Section 8 rental voucher program permission to get a year's worth of vouchers in a lump sum for a home down payment.

Another element: Provide a credit of up to \$2,000 per family to cover 90 percent of health insurance costs for those who do not qualify for government-sponsored programs such as Medicaid, yet do not receive insurance from their employers.

'With a dismal job training record like his in Texas, it's no wonder that Bush had to travel to Ohio to even talk about the issue.'

**Statement**  
Democratic National Committee

"It is true that government can undermine upward mobility, as welfare once did," Bush said. "It is equally true that government — active but limited government — can promote the rewards of work. It can take the side of individual opportunity."

The Texas governor was unveiling his proposal during an afternoon speech to about 250 community and church leaders on Cleveland's West Side — a heavily Democratic area.

"With the same energy and activism that others have brought to expanding government, we must expand opportunity" by targeting those "between poverty and prosperity," Bush said.

The Democratic National Committee, a vessel for the Democratic presidential contender, Vice President Al Gore, criticized Bush as he visited a job training center known as "El Barrio" immediately before his speech.

El Barrio is a nonprofit social service agency that offers a range of services to the city's Hispanic community, including job training, transportation and translations.

The Democrats cited a January report by the Texas state auditor that found "gross fiscal mismanagement" in the administration of a \$201 million "Smart

Jobs" fund overseen by the state Department of Economic Development.

"With a dismal job training record like his in Texas, it's no wonder that Bush had to travel to Ohio to even talk about the issue," a committee statement said.

During his tour of El Barrio today, Bush visited a classroom where students were using a computer to write resumes and job-application letters, an English class and a class where Hispanic adults were learning to be bilingual bank tellers.

Bush posed for photographs with the students and laughed when one student from Peru asked him where his cowboy hat was.

"I left it at home," he replied.

A new CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll shows that Bush has pulled slightly ahead of Gore in the campaign. He was supported by 50 percent of likely voters compared to 41 percent for Gore, up from a poll taken March 30-April 2 which showed the two in a statistical dead heat with Bush at 46 percent and Gore at 45 percent.

Gore has criticized Bush's five-year, \$483 billion tax cut proposal as a "risky tax scheme" that leaves nothing for other government spending and Social Security. Bush sees it as an underpinning for many of his other proposals.

## HOLOCAUST

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including "Hitler's War," said he does not deny that Jews were killed by the Nazis, but challenges the number and manner of Jewish concentration camp deaths. He called Tuesday's ruling "perverse" and said he would seek to appeal.

The 62-year-old Briton represented himself during the nine-week, nonjury hearing, but as the loser must pay the huge legal costs, estimated at \$3.2 million, for Lipstadt and her publishers.

Irving, who has been banned from Germany, Canada and Australia, maintained during the trial that he had been the victim of a 30-year international campaign to destroy his reputation.

He claimed that after publication of Lipstadt's book, "Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory," his academic work was increasingly shunned by publishers and agents.

Under British libel law, Lipstadt and Penguin had to prove not only that

Irving distorted the historical record, but also that the distortion was deliberate.

Lipstadt, who holds the Dorot Chair in Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, briefly hugged supporters after the verdict.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak sent his congratulations to Lipstadt "in the name of Israel and the entire Jewish people."

"Her struggle and victory is the victory of the free world against the forces of darkness that would wish to obliterate from memory the [depths] humanity reached," he said in a statement.

In an interview with Sky TV on Tuesday, Irving denied being a racist and repeated his claim that Jewish deaths during the Holocaust have been exaggerated. Gassings of Jews occurred, he said, "but on nothing like the scale that's talked about now."

And shortly before the verdict, Irving said he had reviewed some of his theories during the trial, but his basic position remained that "the Holocaust has been grossly inflated and there has been a hell of a lot of lying by the eyewitnesses."

Jewish groups expressed relief at the

judge's ruling.

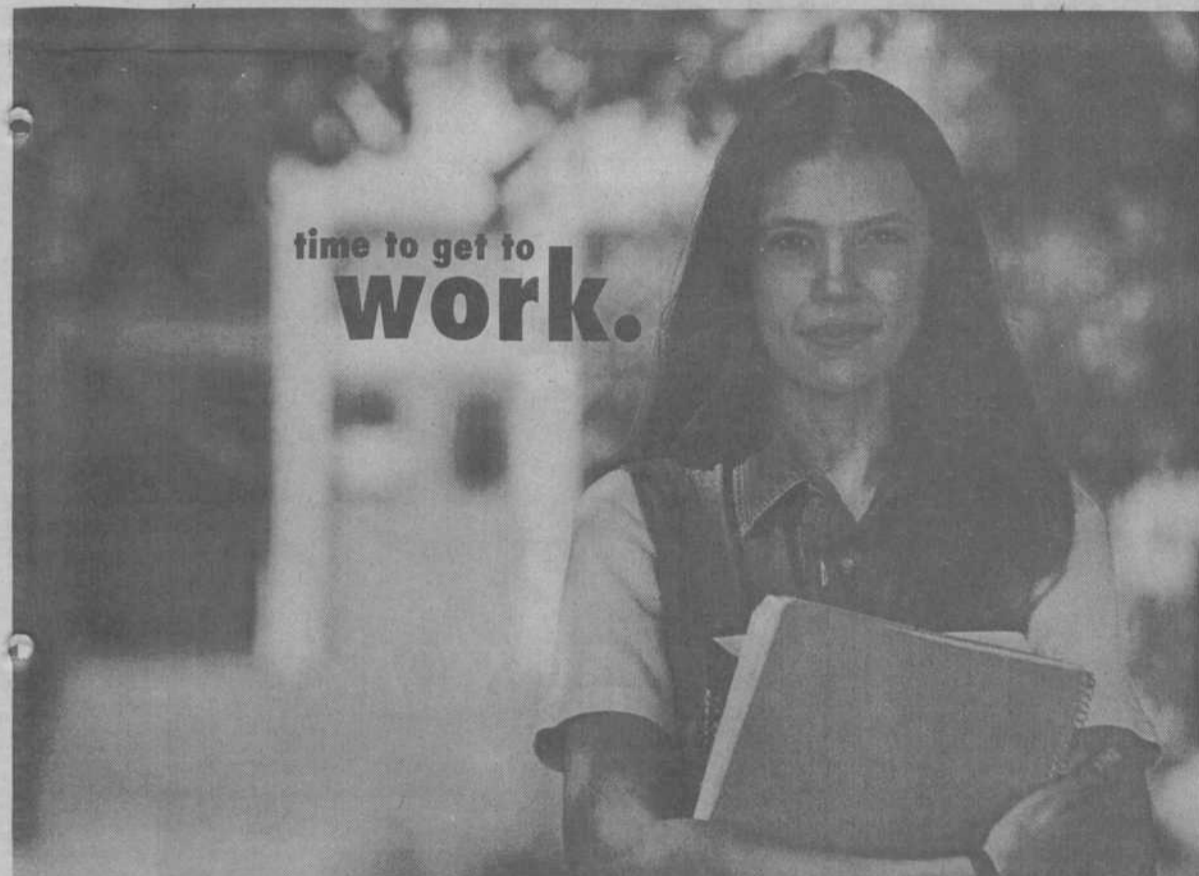
"Today's decision definitely places Irving where he belongs — not as a historian, but as a leading apologist for those who seek to whitewash the most heinous crime in human history," said the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Los Angeles-based movement dedicated to victims of the Nazis.

"Here is a man who carried out a serious attempt to debunk the Holocaust," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, the center's founder. "But it is not the Holocaust that has been debunked, it is David Irving himself."

During the trial, Israel gave Lipstadt and Penguin's lawyers the previously secret memoirs of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, which contained methodical descriptions of the genocide, including timetables of death transports.

"It is a victory for 6 million voices that cannot speak for themselves," said Rabbi Jonathan Romain, son of a Holocaust survivor and a spokesman for Reform Synagogues in Britain. "It is a defeat for the Holocaust denial industry and the bigotry that lies behind it."

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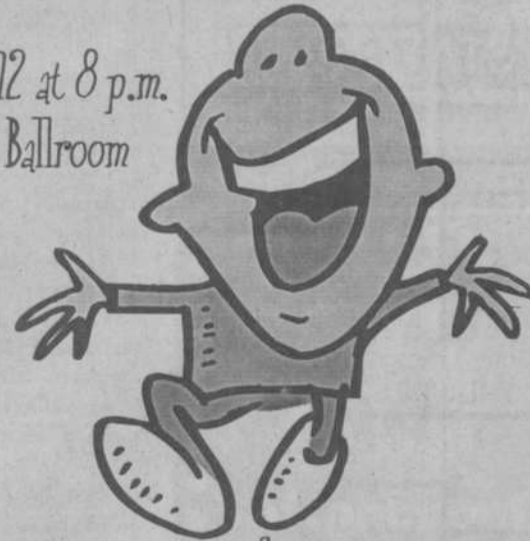
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