

Petyo had town hall meetings May 6 at city halls in Reeds Spring and Kimberling City. He had coffee one morning with locals at Donnie's Diner in Branson West and spent a half-day at L and J Kwik Shop in Kimberling City.

Petyo and Wright also asked to meet with the *Stone County Gazette*. Petyo fielded a lengthy list of questions, talked about his background and detailed some of his political positions.

MEETING

During his meeting with the *Gazette*, Petyo discussed his background.

He's married with two grown sons and has operated a residential and commercial construction business in Hobart, Ind., for 27 years. Hobart is located near Gary, Ind., in the Chicago area.

Petyo's never held public office before, though he did have two failed back-to-back bids in the mid-1990s to get elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Indiana's heavily Democratic 1st congressional district.

In a meeting that spanned about two hours and included a broad range of questions, Petyo weighed in on his positions and philosophies.

- He said his income was about \$50,000 last year, and about \$100,000 the year before when his company was in the process of building a sur-

you're dead. I don't care if big business pays any taxes at all, if employees can pay taxes and the businesses are based here."

He also took issue with Americans who work for American automakers yet drive foreign cars.

Petyo said, "If you work for Ford and you drive a Toyota, are you on drugs? Who's feeding your family?"

- Petyo said he'd battle partisan gridlock in Washington by getting Republicans and