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Presidential prognostications

Fearless forecast ... It's finally here. What a year! And now the USA decides. Having played no small part in all of this, I now get the chance to pontificate on the outcome.

First some thoughts. Had **Ross Perot** stayed in all the way with a strong female running mate he would have won this one outright. The public likes him no matter what, and you can't beat that.

Bill Clinton is an incredible politician. He reminds me of the guys chasing Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. No matter what route the outlaws took, the posse was always right behind them, causing them to ask, "Who are those guys?" Well, the White House had to be saying that a lot about the Clinton-Gore ticket, which seemed to be everywhere.

George Bush is a good guy and **Dan Quayle** is an able presenter of the conservative cause and a relentless (if not presidential) campaigner. Bush's major error (next to not seeing the recession till it was upon us) was marrying the **Buchanan, Limbaugh, Dornan, Schlafly** and **Robertson** wing of the party and turning the convention over to them.

He should have had the **Ford, Reagan, Packwood, Hatfield** and **Danforth** troops leading the parade. The Far Right represents about 15% of the thinking in this country and while that is not small, it ain't big either. He went swimming with the wrong team.

The pick: Clinton with 47% of the total vote. Bush gets 35%; Perot, 17%. Clinton wins the key states of Michigan, Illinois and New Jersey. Perot hurts Clinton but not enough to cost him in places like California and New York. (Perot remains a major factor in politics, maybe forming a new third party.)

Democrats pick up seats in the Senate. The



**LARRY KING'S
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News & Views

House remains unchanged by numbers but gets lots of new faces. Turnout is close to 60%. Vote! (Election index, 3A).

Red, Jim: Thanks for the memories

Memories ... **Red Barber**, who passed away on Oct. 22 at 84, was one of the major influences in my life. His voice was part of my childhood — a major part. I got to work with him on Channel 4 in Miami in the '60s and considered it one of the joys of my life. He gave me one of my biggest thrills ever by asking me to write the forward to the

re-publication of his brilliant book *The Broadcasters*. He had class and grace and he could make action sound like poetry. He was one-of-a-kind. Rest well, my friend.

Jim Garrison, who passed away the day before Red, was also part of my life. I interviewed him often, dined with him, heard tapes of potential witnesses the jury in the Clay Shaw trial never got to hear. He was obsessed by the JFK assassination. He was no phony and the people of Louisiana loved him.

I remember once dropping him off at Miami International Airport. **Martin Luther King** had recently been killed. As Garrison closed the door to the car, he turned back and said, "Larry, they'll kill Robert Kennedy too. Mark my words, Larry."

Robert De Niro's film *Night and the City* is a major disappointment. I couldn't make heads nor tails of it. **Jack Warden** and **Alan King** were terrific, but other than that I don't know what the whole thing was even about.

The *Larry King Show* is heard nightly on 390 radio stations via the Mutual Radio Network. *Larry King Live* can be seen nightly on CNN.