

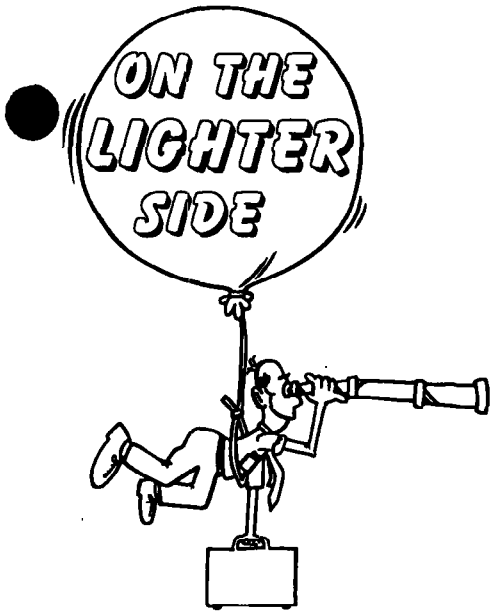


SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

# The Actuary

November 1992 – Volume 26, No. 9



## October poll shows actuaries undecided?

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the U.S. Presidential election will be over, and we will all know who won. In the September *Actuary*, we asked whether you thought the Republican or Democratic candidate would win, and who you were voting for.

We received 128 tear-out coupons by October 12. The Clinton/Gore ticket got the most votes — 58, and Bush/Quayle — 51. The next highest votes, 10, were write-ins for the Libertarian Party candidates — Andre Marrou/Nancy Lord, Ross Perot, who re-entered the race on October 1 after withdrawing in July, got 4 write-in votes. James "Bo" Gritz (Independent) got 2 votes. Three others said, "no one."

One could interpret this light "turnout" (less than 1% of our readership) in several different ways, including a large "undecided" population. Of course, several mentioned the response bias and that all candidates should have been listed.

Our straw vote gives neither candidate a majority of the "actuarial" vote (Clinton — 46% of the 125 votes; Bush — 41%). One reader brought up the possibility that Perot's votes could send the election to Congress.

Of those who estimated the probabilities of winning for the two candidates, the average was 59% for Clinton and 39% for Bush. The range was from 2% to 100% for Clinton and from 0% to 98% for Bush.

### What Clinton supporters say

"I'm afraid I have to vote for Clinton even though the insurance industry was the only one he chose to bash in his acceptance speech."

"Although 70% of SOA members will vote for Bush, I believe a vote for Bush is crazy!"

"Quayle + a heartbeat = no way I could ever vote Bush/Quayle."

"If the Republicans win, the national debt will be \$6 trillion and 95% of workers miserable in 1996."

"I think a Democratic presidency will be more interested in encouraging defined benefit retirement plans than the current administration."

"It is impossible to (1) have the intelligence, vision and competence of an actuary, (2) be honest, and (3) get elected."

"After 58 years as a Republican voter, I am having trouble with Bush."

"Clinton and Gore seem to be much more future oriented than Bush and Quayle."

"Actually, I won't have time to vote on Nov. 3 because I'll be studying for an actuarial exam."

"A sorry lot, indeed! Perot has now become a man without qualities also."

"Bush has proven he cannot solve the problems. Would four more years differ from the last four?"

"To illustrate how bad our economy is, I have gone from worrying about career advancement to worrying about job security....I believe Clinton's policies can stimulate the economy. Bush's policies have failed big time...." (An ASA and EA with 10 years' experience)

"Hopefully, actuaries will stop looking at only one issue — taxes — to view the broad spectrum of issues... that Bush will not/has not addressed: economy, environment, violence, poverty, homelessness, women's issues, education."

### It's Bush supporters' turn

"We find it difficult to afford a Republican president with a Democratic Congress, but we will all have to file for bankruptcy if we get a Democratic president with a Democratic Congress."

"This election reminds me of 1976: weak Republican president, weak economy, Southern Democratic governor of a small state

who is young and has a certain 'charisma' that can unite the... Democratic factions. I hope history does not repeat itself... during President Carter's four years things got worse."

"Can't overcome the most telling statistic — GNP growth in election year < 2.5%"

"Clinton/Gore are ultra-liberal and would spell disaster for the insurance industry of the U.S.A."

"Depressed. Republican party overrun by religious fanatics. Neither party serious about cutting wasteful and harmful government programs."

"More taxes on the way! Also more regulation on the way!"

"How can actuaries become more involved with informing the public of the implications of each candidate's health care plan?"

"Bush has a better chance of affecting deficit reduction — our single biggest issue."

"Private sector output, jobs, and productivity are likely to suffer under Clinton."

### Others have their say

One person voting for Marrou said, "The Libertarian Party and its candidates are far superior to the Republican and Democrats....They will not win because they do not have millions of taxpayer dollars to run their campaigns and...get very little media exposure."

A Ross Perot supporter said, "He is the only choice we have in lowering the federal deficit."

One of those voting for "none of the above" said, "I

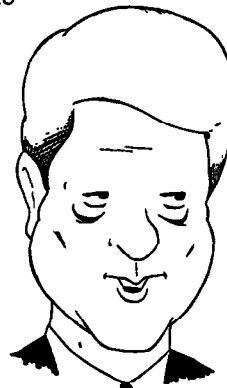
feel that voter apathy is caused from a... 'what does it matter, they're both equally bad' syndrome...."

I propose we spice up the electoral process by adding a 'none of the above' choice:

1) If a candidate beats all others, including 'none of the above', that candidate

wins (although we could also require a minimum percentage of total votes).

2) If 'none of the above' wins (or the winner receives less than a minimum), a new election must be held. Any candidate who received less than 'none of the above' cannot be in the new election."



46%

of the 'actuarial vote'



41%