

TO THE POINT

Looking ahead

BY JIM BENSON

We're beginning a new year, and as I usually do at this time, I want to take a look at what 1997 may hold for all of us in terms of the state of the nation, since what happens could significantly affect the quality of our lives and whether we increase or continue to lose freedom.

A good place to start in order to get some idea of what the future holds is the recent past. Now that the 1996 elections are behind us, it might be worth while to review the results, since they will have an impact on our lives for the coming year and for years to come.

Late in the night of November 5 I breathed a sigh of relief that my worst nightmare—which I related in this column in last month's issue—did not come to pass. That was a Clinton landslide in which the coattail effect swept the political left back into power in Congress.

While it's true that Bill Clinton did win re-election in an electoral college landslide, and there was some coattails effect in which his party managed to pick up 10 or more seats in the House of Representatives (at this writing the outcomes of some close races were still unknown), the Clintonite-dominated Democratic Party failed to retake control of Congress.

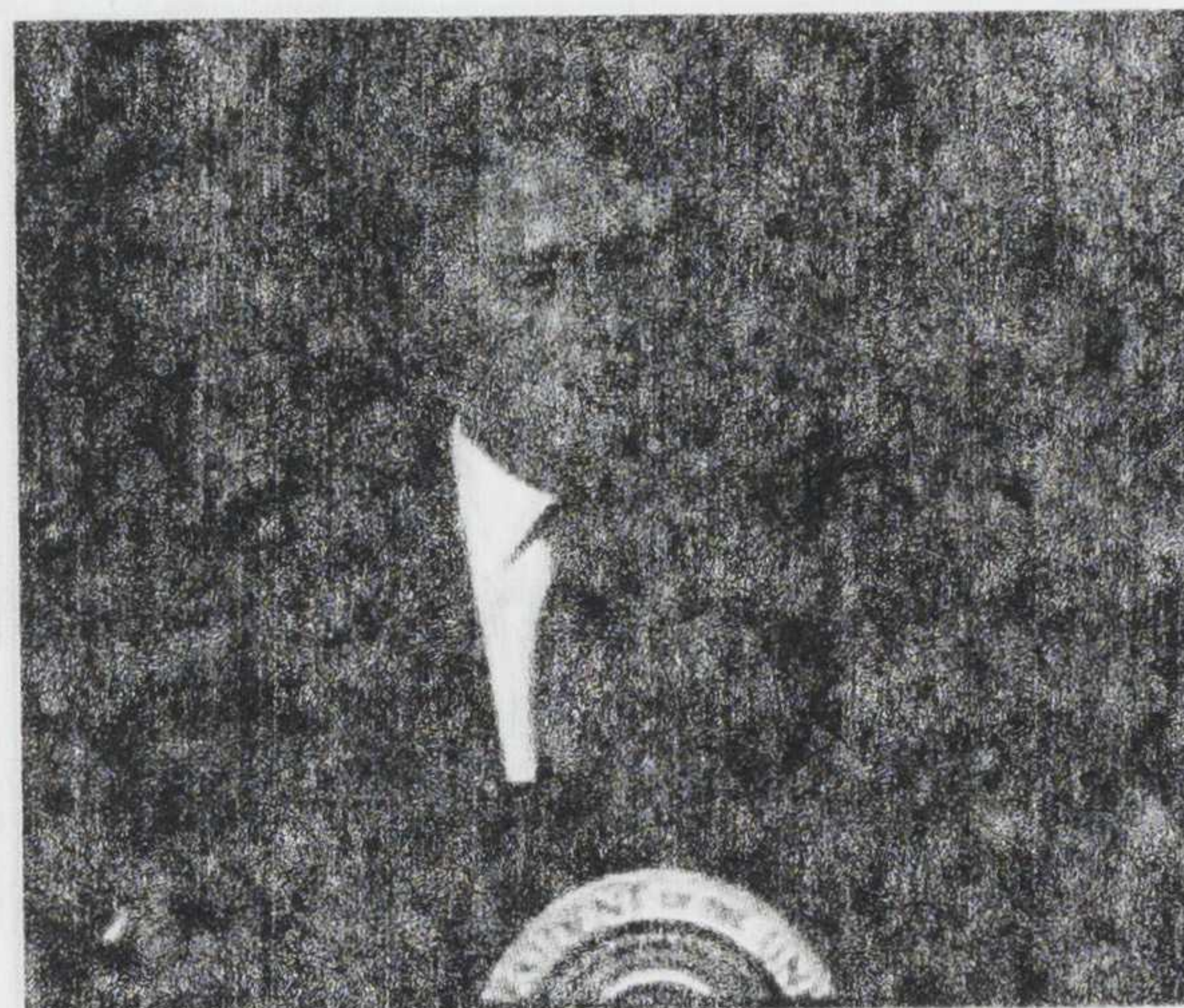
At this writing just after the elections, here's the way it looks: Though their overall strength was weakened somewhat in the House, the Republicans still hold power in both houses of Congress, and even gained slightly in the Senate. And despite President Bill Clinton's and Vice President Al Gore's long winded and bombastic election victory speeches, they face a much different situation than they did when they were swept into office four years earlier believing they had a solid public mandate for socialism.

Despite the enormous and outrageous outpouring of pro-Clinton, pro-Democrat, pro-leftist propaganda from our notoriously left-wing-dominated big media organizations, despite the tens of millions of dollars poured into the Clintonite Democratic campaign coffers by big labor, and despite the cascade of sympathetic propaganda from other prominent groups allied with the Democratic Party such as the Communist Party USA, Bill Clinton did not even get 50 percent

of the popular vote.

Though Clinton won, many people, according to exit polling, expressed doubts and reservations about him, and concern about what he will try to do in his second term. He clearly does not enjoy the kind of support among the populace he had hoped for—no matter what he claims about it.

I know there are many of you—including other writers in this magazine—who contend it makes no difference who won the elections, and that Republicans and Democrats are essentially the same in their political views and are both pushing us down the road to some form of slavery and self-destruction. But I don't agree.



Bill Clinton giving his election victory speech.

While there are definitely liberal Republicans and conservative Democrats, by and large there are significant overall differences between the two parties. There is ample evidence of this. Take, for example, the Democratic Party's longtime allies and ideological brethren, the communists (at one time the Communist Party USA wanted to be a wing of the Democratic Party). They continually howl with rage about conservative Republicans.

In an article by the Young Communist League, USA appearing in the September 21, 1996 issue of the Communist Party's *People's Weekly World*, the author(s) declared:

"If you thought the 'Contract with America' was bad, you ain't seen nothing yet."

"Dole, Gingrich and their gang of ultra-right Republican Congressmen head the attack on young people. If they win in November, our lives and futures are at stake..."

"...don't let it happen!"

This message is similar to that echoed throughout much of our left-wing-dominated big media organizations in the months prior to the elections. No question that the political left is immensely powerful and had a profound effect on the thinking of millions of voters, many of whom expressed fear that, as one radio talk show listener stated, a government run by the Republicans "was going to take away their handouts."

Chastened by the election results, there may be a tendency by many of the political right to ease up on pressing their investigations into the numerous scandals and controversies surrounding the Clinton presidency. This, in my view, would be a real mistake. Clinton has gotten away with a great deal and he should not be allowed to get away with a great deal more. The problem is the political right is up against the massive power of the left-wing-dominated media to shape public opinion and turn it against the right. It's high time that the political right—and this means many Republicans and their allies—turn on the media, big time, and attack them openly and repeatedly for what they are—a mouthpiece for the political left and the Democratic Party.

Shaking up the media elite and getting more balance in the reporting of "news" and in the presenting of other information to the public is a key to changing the tide of socialism building in this country.

Still, given the remaining strength of conservatives in government after the elections, we have reason for hope that we can continue to work for greater individual freedoms and less powerful, abusive government.

And it's reasonable to assume at this point, that for the foreseeable future at least, the left will be unable to promote and enact serious gun control legislation in Congress which so many of them had hoped to do after the elections—though that doesn't mean they won't try. We must all be on the alert for this.

The political left's fundamental message is fear and hate. The media were able to convince enough people that they had to vote for Clinton and the political left because if they didn't those heartless, uncaring, radical right-wingers would take over and destroy Medicare, destroy Social Security, destroy welfare, destroy the environment, destroy public education; and it's impossible to cut taxes and balance the bloated federal budget (ludicrous!), etc.

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